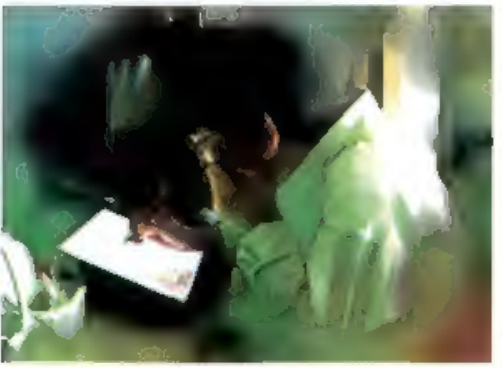


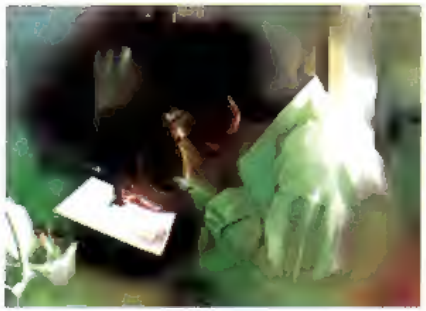
美樹本晴彦
Haruhiko Mikimoto

シナリオをいただきどう描かせていただくか頭を悩ませ、スタッフもガンプラ片手にメカ作画と格闘し…という日々の繰り返しです。
気がつくと季節が変わり、着ている服が季節はずれになっております。ごろ寝をすると風邪をひきます。でも私の部屋にはまだ毛布一枚しかありません。

当初シナリオ打ち合わせでは、場合によっては回想のみか、1、2話で良いのでは?という意見もあった第二部。想像以上に膨らみましたが、いよいよエンディングに向かいます。

成長してゆくアスナを見ていただければと思います。

COVER DESIGN / KAZUMI TADAHIRO [BE-ENTO]



美樹本晴彦
Haruhiko Mikimoto

担当F氏がこの季節のためにと温存しておいてくれたイラストで、スタート以前のアスナという感じで描かせていただいたものです。

カバー裏描き下ろし?

2回落とした後では話すら振っていただけませんでした(涙)。すなわち、今回は落とした訳ではないのです!

投げられた?棄てられた?

……それは解釈の相違であります。

COVER DESIGN / KAZUMI TADAHIRO [BE-ENTO]

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ILLUST GALLERY XXII

ILLUST GALLERY XXIII

École du Ciel™

天空の学校

7

written & illustrated by

Haruhiko Mikimoto

Gundam Series Created By Hajime Yatate & Yoshiyuki Tomino

Mechanic Design By Yoshinori Sayama

Produced By OUTASIGHT

AS ENVISIONED BY MIKIMOTO

THE ACCLAIMED ARTIST OF MACROSS AND BABY BIRTH!

TOKYOPOP

MOBILE SUIT GUNDAM École du Ciel™ Haruhiko Mikimoto 7

TOKYOPOP

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École du Ciel—where aspiring pilots train to become Top Gundam!

As the pirates prepare to leave the moon, nicely repaired and re-supplied, the Titans send a message: they have taken Haruka, Asuna's mother, hostage—and they want Asuna in exchange! The pirates hand over a dummy Asuna in a Normal Suit, but the Titans don't take this kind of trickery lightly: they plan to destroy Marie and her crew, Asuna or no Asuna. Everyone jumps in to help, but when Marie takes a hit to save Asuna from a GM, will Asuna find the courage to take down this indefatigable enemy once and for all?

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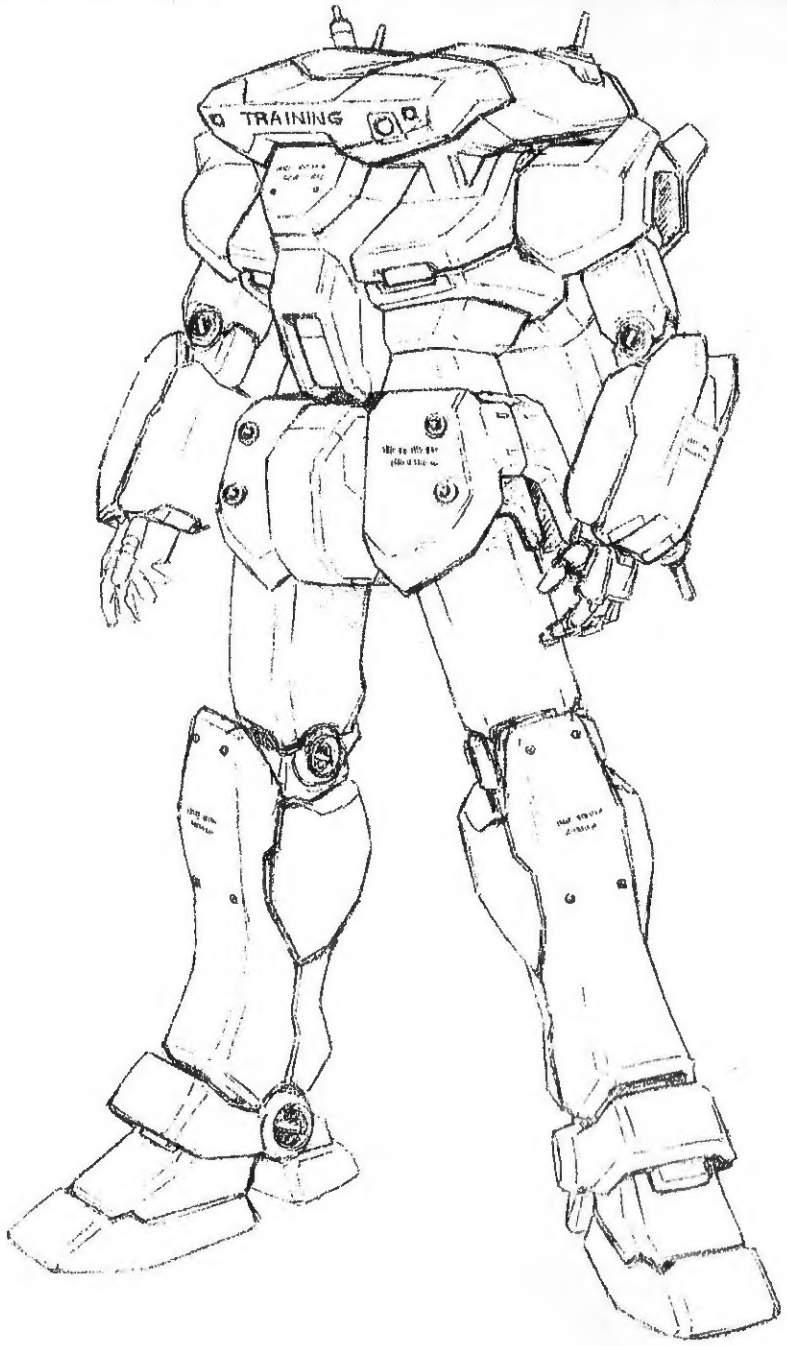

Editor's note: To see a Universal Century timeline and a glossary of terms, visit http://www.gundamofficial.com/worlds/uc/index.html

Mobile Suit Gundam École du Ciel Volume 7
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Gundam Series Created by Hajime Yatate & Yoshiyuki Tomino
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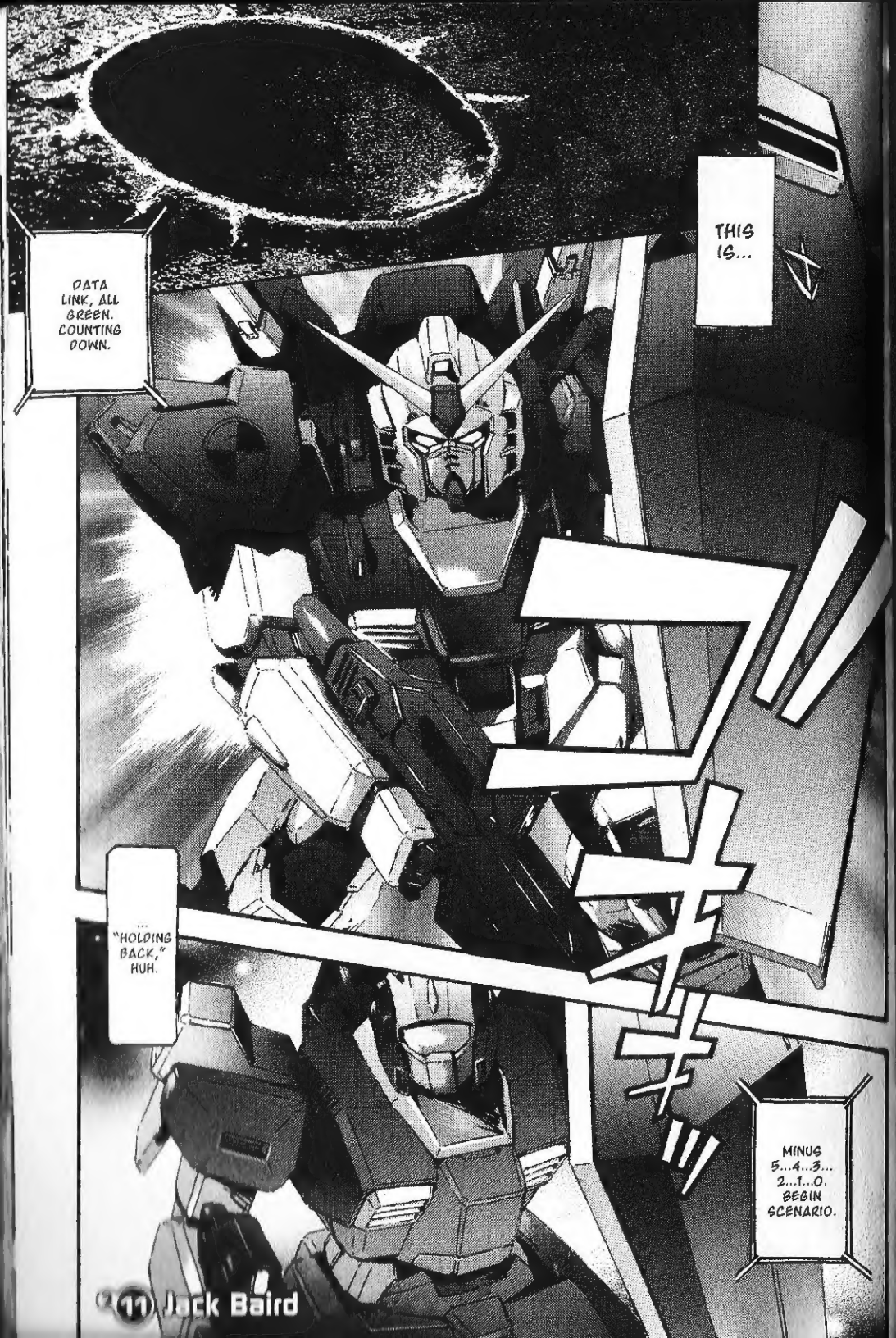

Mobile Suit Gundam

École du Ciel

天空の学校

CONTENTS

PART 2

Chapter 11 - Jack Baird 009

Chapter 12 - Pride 027

Chapter 13 - Hostage 069

Chapter 14 - Determination 103

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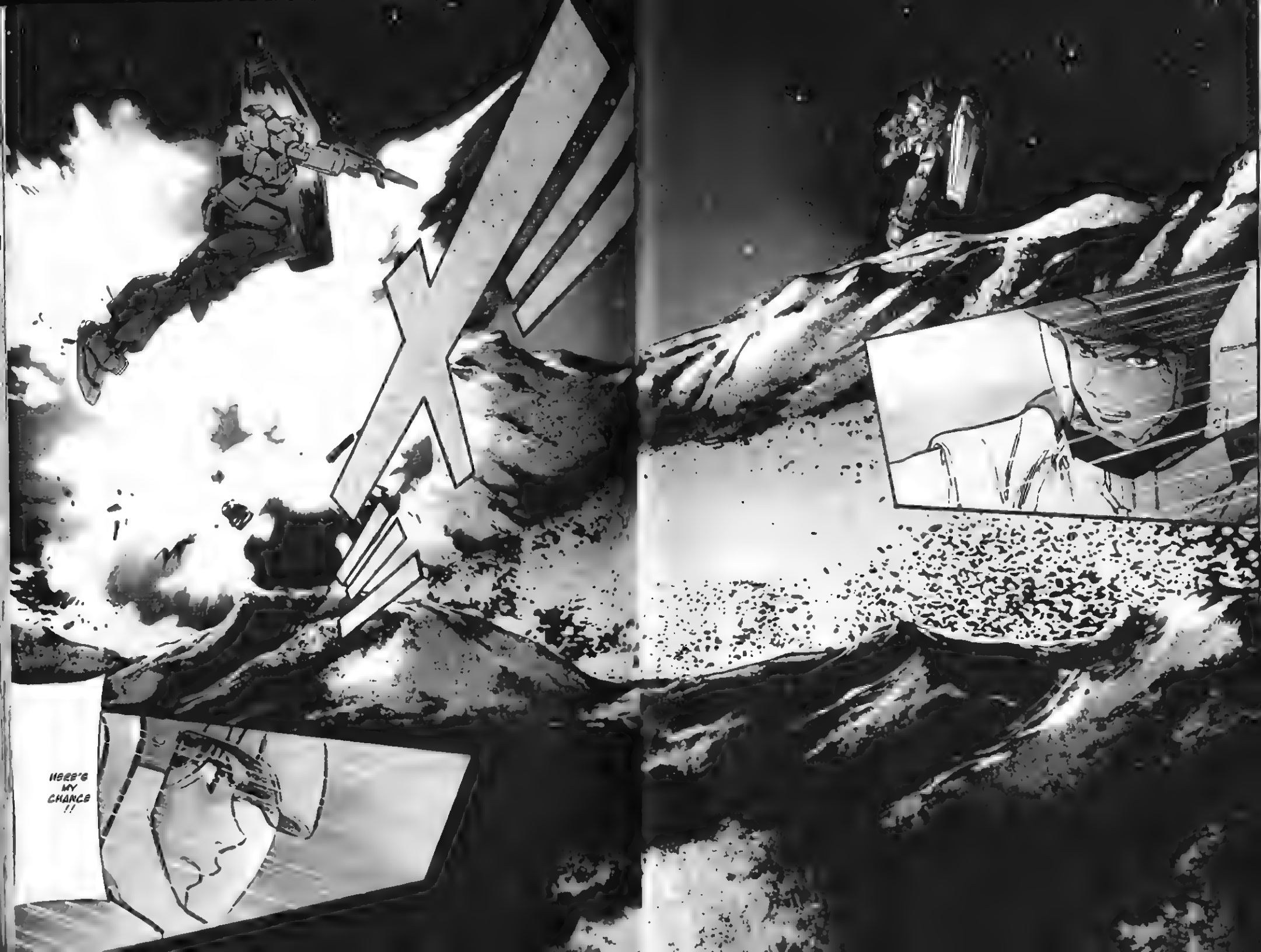
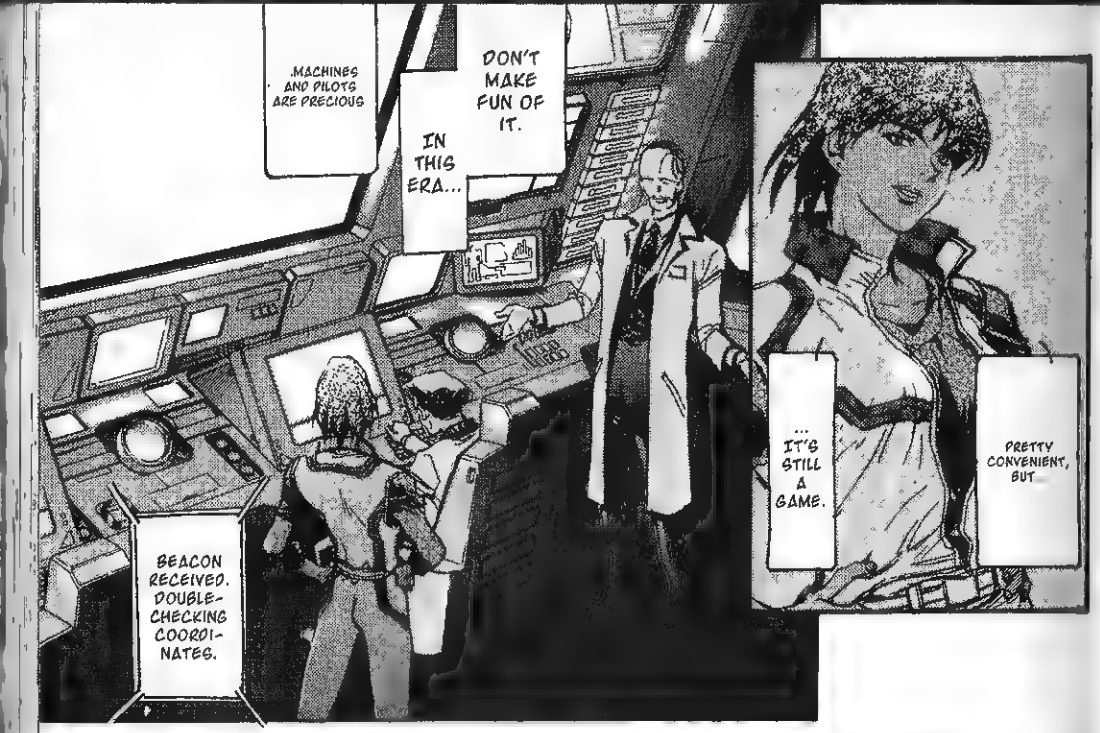
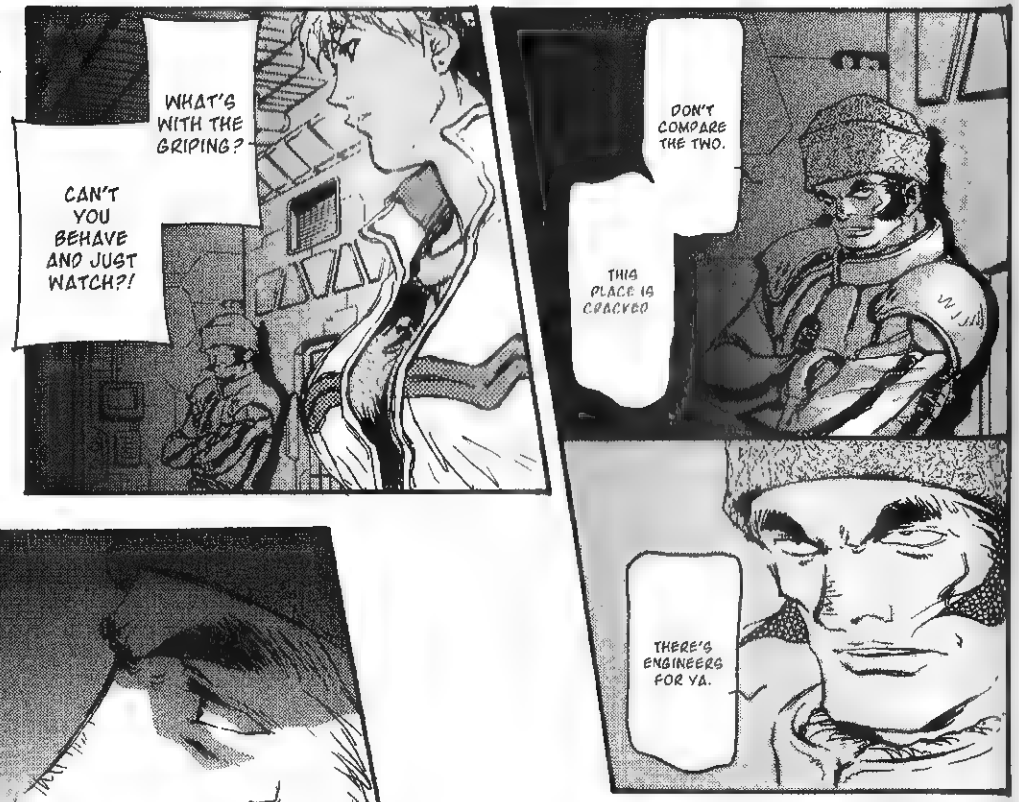
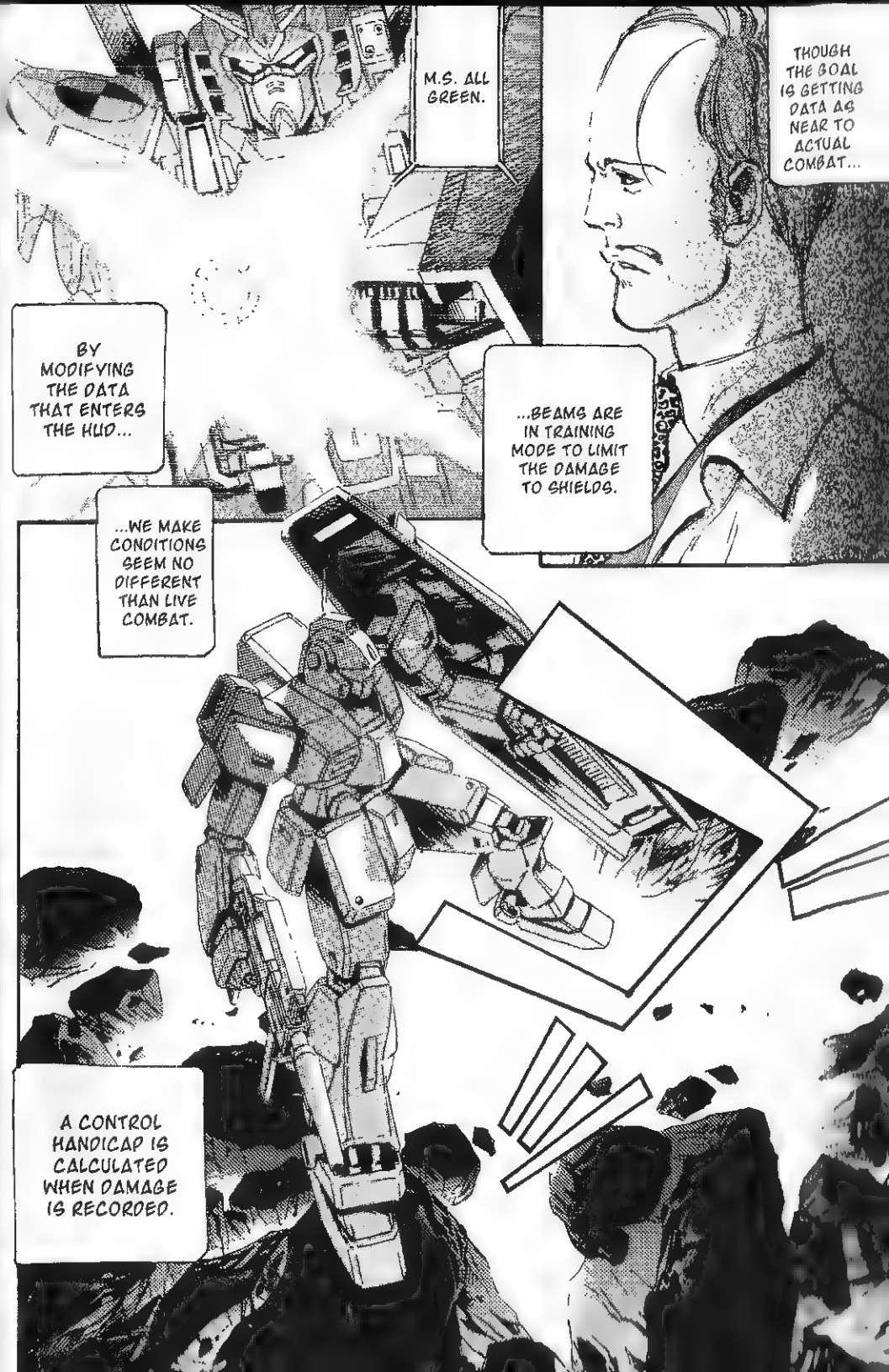
(Events To Date) A girl born in the Republic of Zeon, Asuna Elmarit, enters the Federation MS training school "École." There, her hidden power blooms. However, discovering that the Salamis attack incident was a plot by project to identify, develop and monopolize both civilian and military Newtypes, Asuna flees Ecole and becomes part of Marie Albeltia's pirates. Now accepted by her shipmates, Asuna arrives at the Lunar City of Anman with Marie's ship to participate in spec tests of an AEUG-jacked Gundam Mk-II at an Anaheim Electronics factory. But after trouble, she proceeds with mock combat with the Federation's Ensign Jack Baird...


HERE'S MY CHANCE !!

...A WAVE OF DEBRIS!!
SIGHT
LOCKING ONTO THE OPPONENT WHILE FLYING BEHIND...
I'VE COLLECTED DATA ON NEMOS LOTS OF TIMES
DON'T WORRY
CAREFUL SEVERAL OBSTRUCTIONS APPROACHING
IT'S A BIT ROUGH, BUT...
SOPHIE-SAN
NOT SICK, ARE YOU?!
THIS IS A FIRST...
INCREDIBLE!!
TOO OBVIOUS
AGAIN?


MACHINES AND PILOTS ARE PRECIOUS
IN THIS ERA...
DON'T MAKE FUN OF IT.
BEACON RECEIVED. DOUBLE-CHECKING COORDI-NATES.
... IT'S STILL A GAME.
PRETTY CONVENIENT, BUT...


WHAT'S WITH THE GRIPING?
CAN'T YOU BEHAVE AND JUST WATCH?!
DON'T COMPARE THE TWO.
THIS PLACE IS CRACKED
THERE'S ENGINEERS FOR YA.


M.S. ALL GREEN.
THOUGH THE GOAL IS GETTING DATA AS NEAR TO ACTUAL COMBAT...
...BEAMS ARE IN TRAINING MODE TO LIMIT THE DAMAGE TO SHIELDS.
BY MODIFYING THE DATA THAT ENTERS THE HUD...
...WE MAKE CONDITIONS SEEM NO DIFFERENT THAN LIVE COMBAT.
A CONTROL HANDICAP IS CALCULATED WHEN DAMAGE IS RECORDED.

THAT WORRIED?
I WAS ASKING ABOUT AGUNA.
WORRIED FOR WHOM?
SHE GOT IN ON HER OWN!!
NO WAY!

GO TO A NORMAL SCHOOL, MARRY, HAVE A FAMILY...
THE HECK'S YOUR PROBLEM?!
...PUT YOURSELF IN DANGER!!
I CAN'T TAKE IT!! I CAN ONLY DO THOSE THINGS BECAUSE YOU...
THAT'S YOUR DREAM, AIN'T IT?!
AND SO WHAT...?!
MY DREAM IS...
NO, THAT'S YOUR DREAM!!

?!
ON SIGHT
I TOOK THE PIRATE MISSY TOO LIGHTLY ....!!
CAN'T LOCK ON AT ALL...
DAMN!

DIDN'T KNOW WHERE SHE'D GONE.
SHE LEFT HOME-- DOESN'T LISTEN TO ANYONE!!
THAT'S ...
DECIDING WHAT'S RIGHT BY HIMSELF...
HE WAS ALWAYS LIKE THAT.
A REAL PAIN, HUH?
NIX
GOT HIM!!

ILLUST GALLERY XXIV

WHAT'S SHE DOING?!
OFF THE MARK!!

I'M OKAY.
TH-THIS MUCH IS NOTHING!!
YOU ALL RIGHT ...
...SOPHIA?
END IT HERE!!!

?!
IMPACT POINT ERROR...
HAVEN'T YOU NOTICED IT?
ASUNA'D NEVER MISS THERE!!
OR BEFORE!!
AND THOSE WERE ALL BULLETS!!
?
I'M BLINDED!
UGH!
SY₀-ON
PIRATE TACTIC, HUH...?
!!

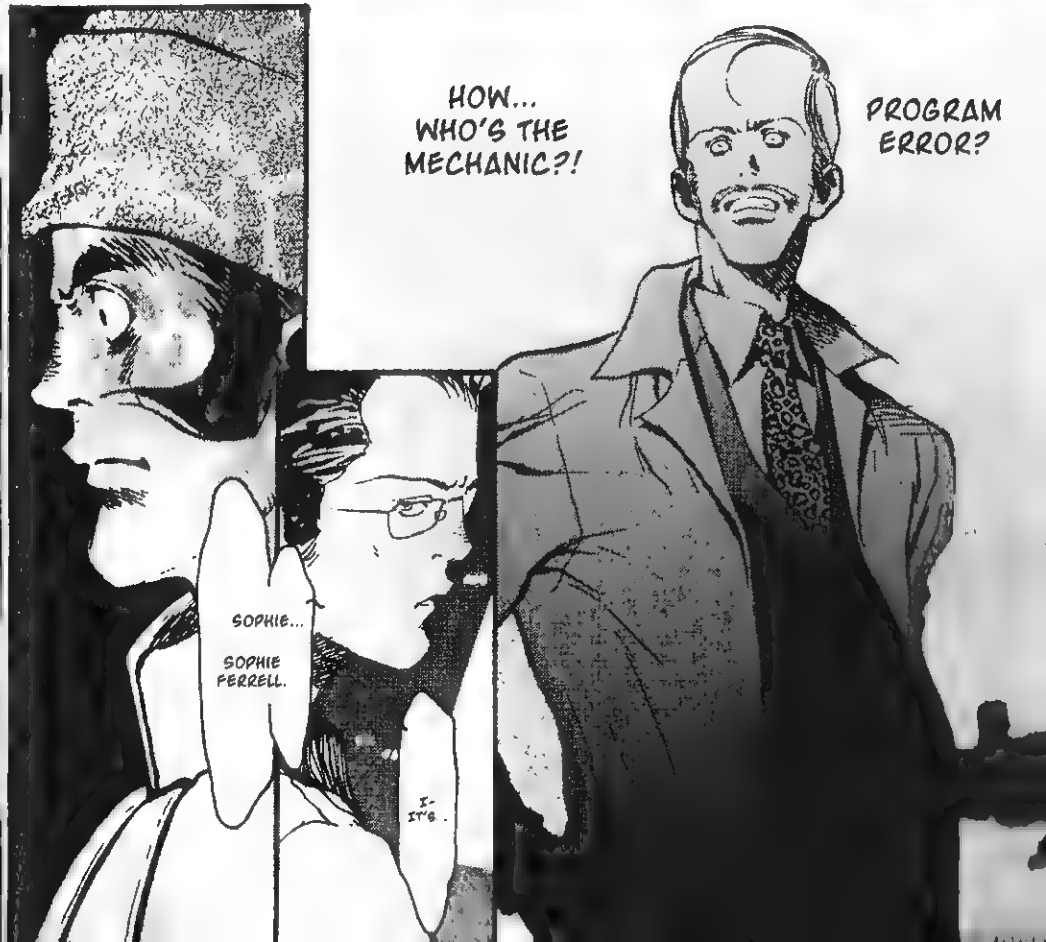
MECHANIC FILE

RX-178 GUNDAM Mk-II

Federation-developed MS. Moveable Frame provides rapid response. Three units were hijacked from Side 7 by AEUG. Colors changed from Titans black to white; used on the Argama. One of these was obtained by Anaheim Electronics for analysis.

▲ A black-shoulder Mk-II also appears in EVOLVE

◀▼ Mk-II during maintenance. The optional 60mm head vulcan has been removed, perhaps for reloading.



Mobile Suit Gundam

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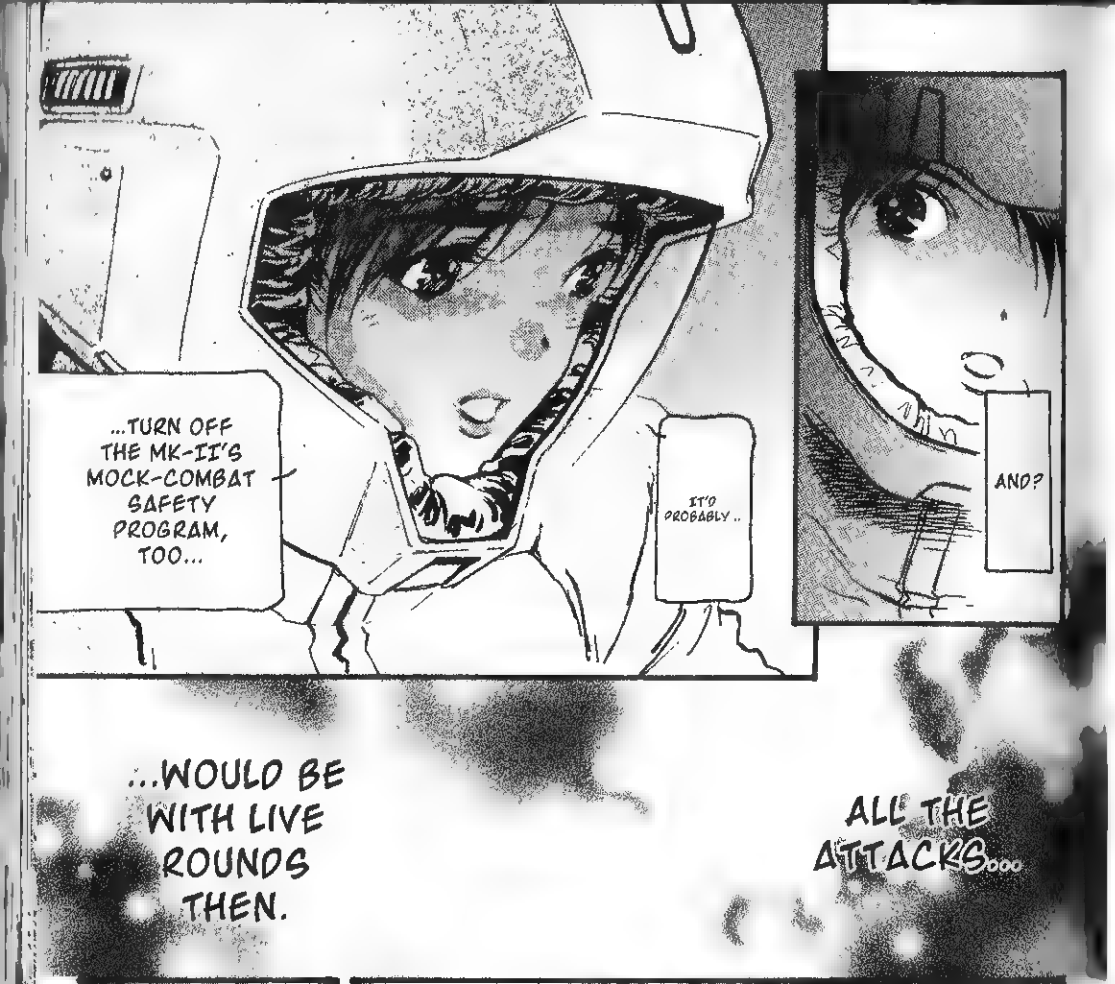
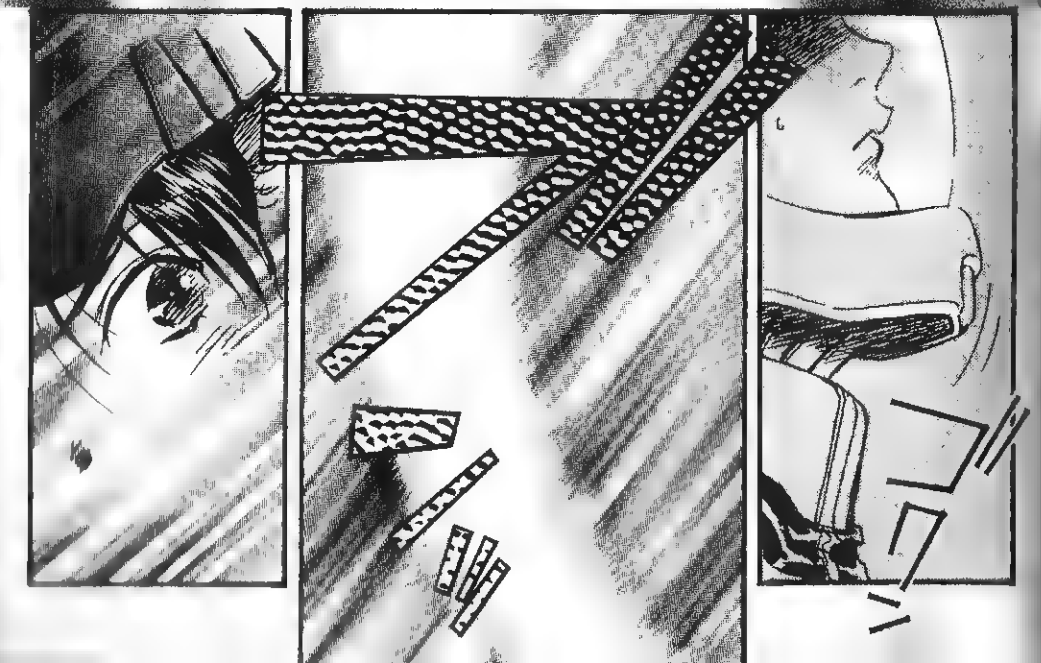
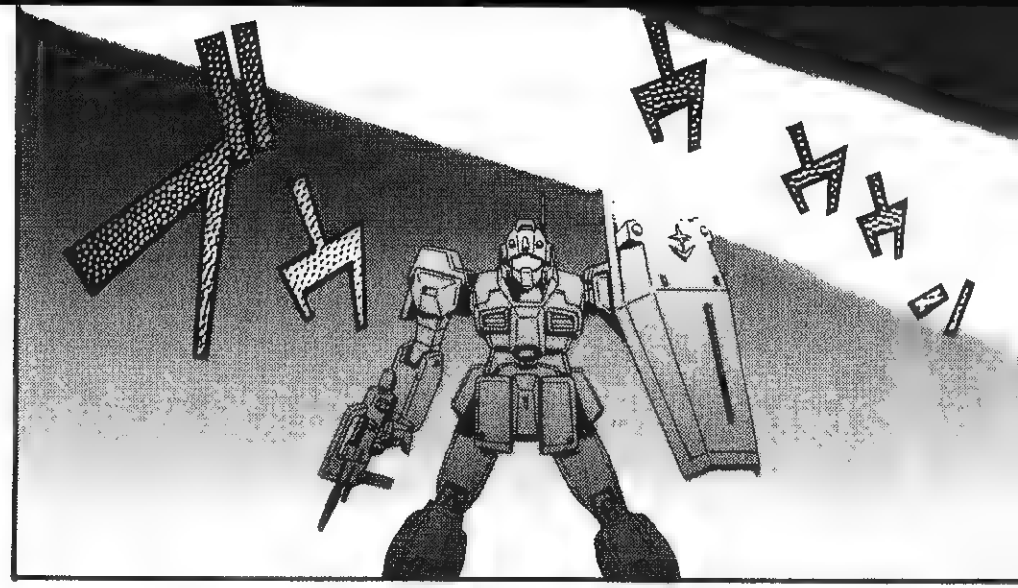
NO ...
LET'S KEEP GOING.
NO CHOICE
WE'LL STOP. IT'S TOO DANGEROUS!
!!
YOU WANTED DATA? NOW YOU'LL GET IT.
YOU NEVER KNOW WHAT'LL HAPPEN IN BATTLE.
IT DOESN'T HAVE TO BE MAINTENANCE.
B-BUT...
EVEN SO...
IT'S TOO RECK-LESS

AGAIN?!
CHIEF!!
AT THIS RATE THE MK-II'S JUST A "TARGET."
OTHER MALFUNCTIONS MIGHT ARISE!
.....

...YOU CAN'T EVEN LOCK ON ONCE!!
LET'S SEE WHAT YOU CAN DO WHEN...
ROGGA
ARE ROGS, RIGHT?
ALL THREE
I LIKE IT. YOU AND...
CHOCA-LICAO
WELL SAID, MARIE THE PIRATE.
.....
BUT THAT'D MEAN AGUNA NOT TAKING RESPONSIBILITY
AGUNA ELMARIT
WE COULD JUST LET THE BAD MAINS GO

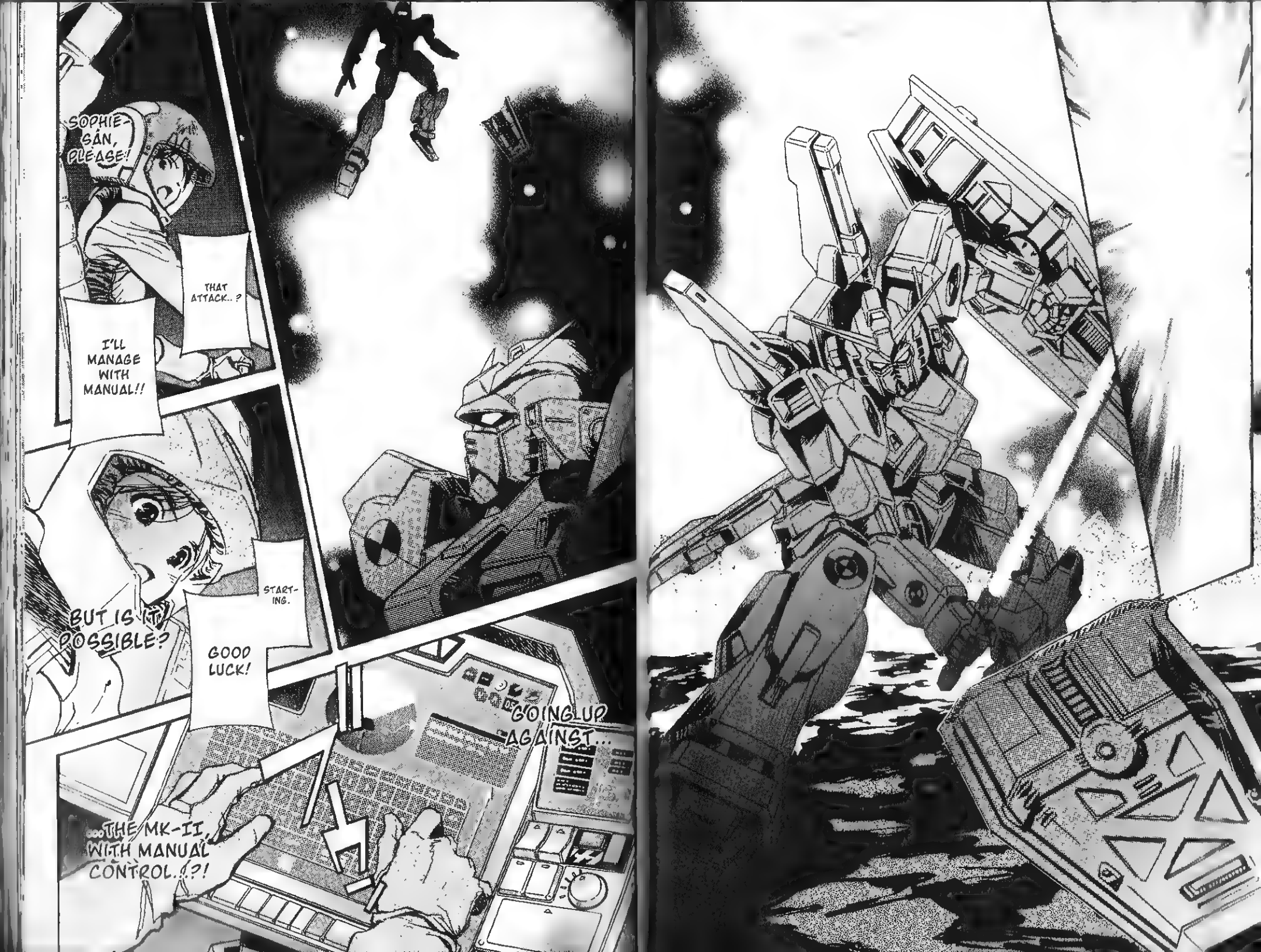

...TURN OFF THE MK-II'S MOCK-COMBAT SAFETY PROGRAM, TOO...
IT'D PROBABLY ..
AND?
...WOULD BE WITH LIVE ROUNDS THEN.
ALL THE ATTACKS...

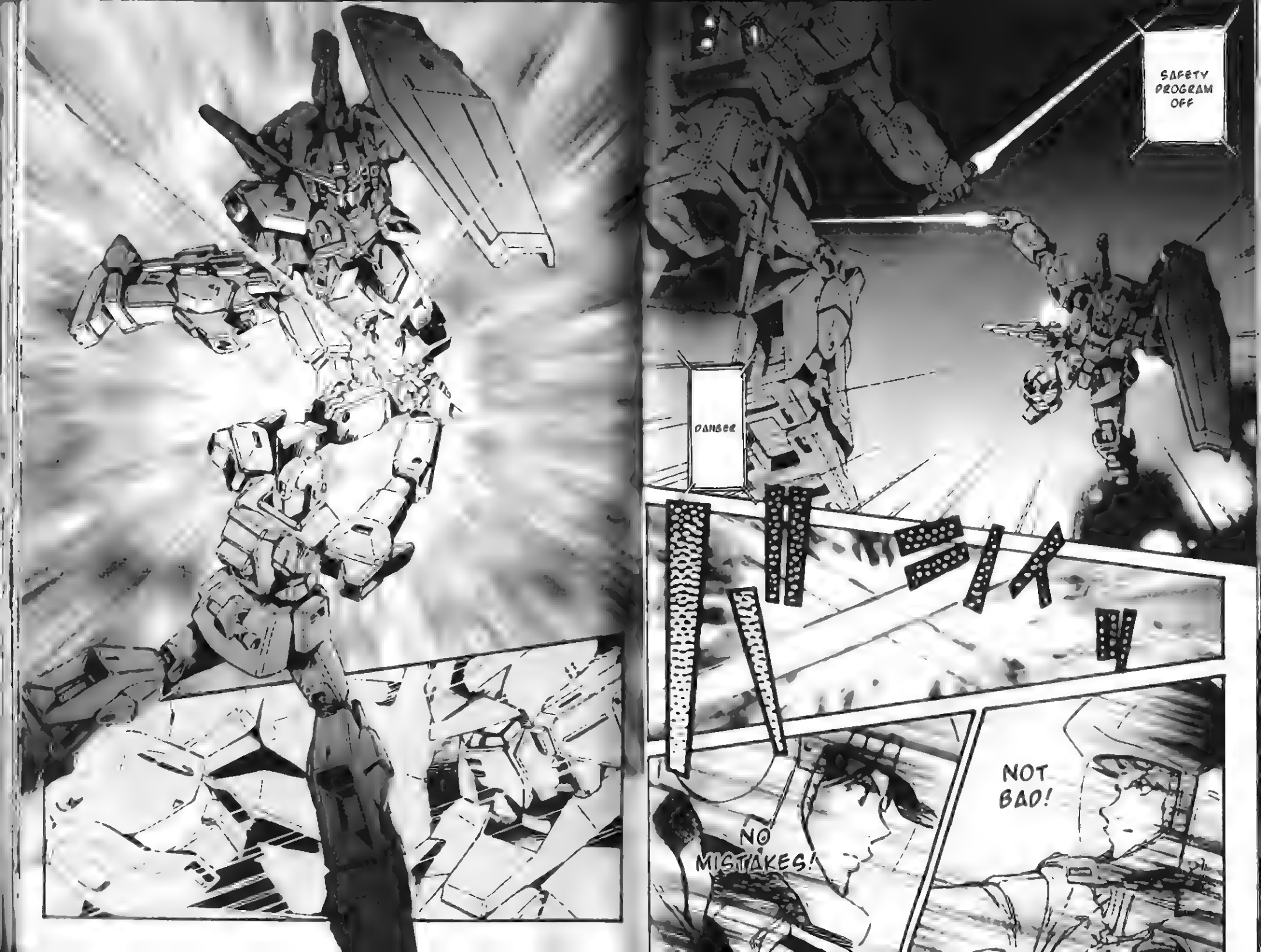


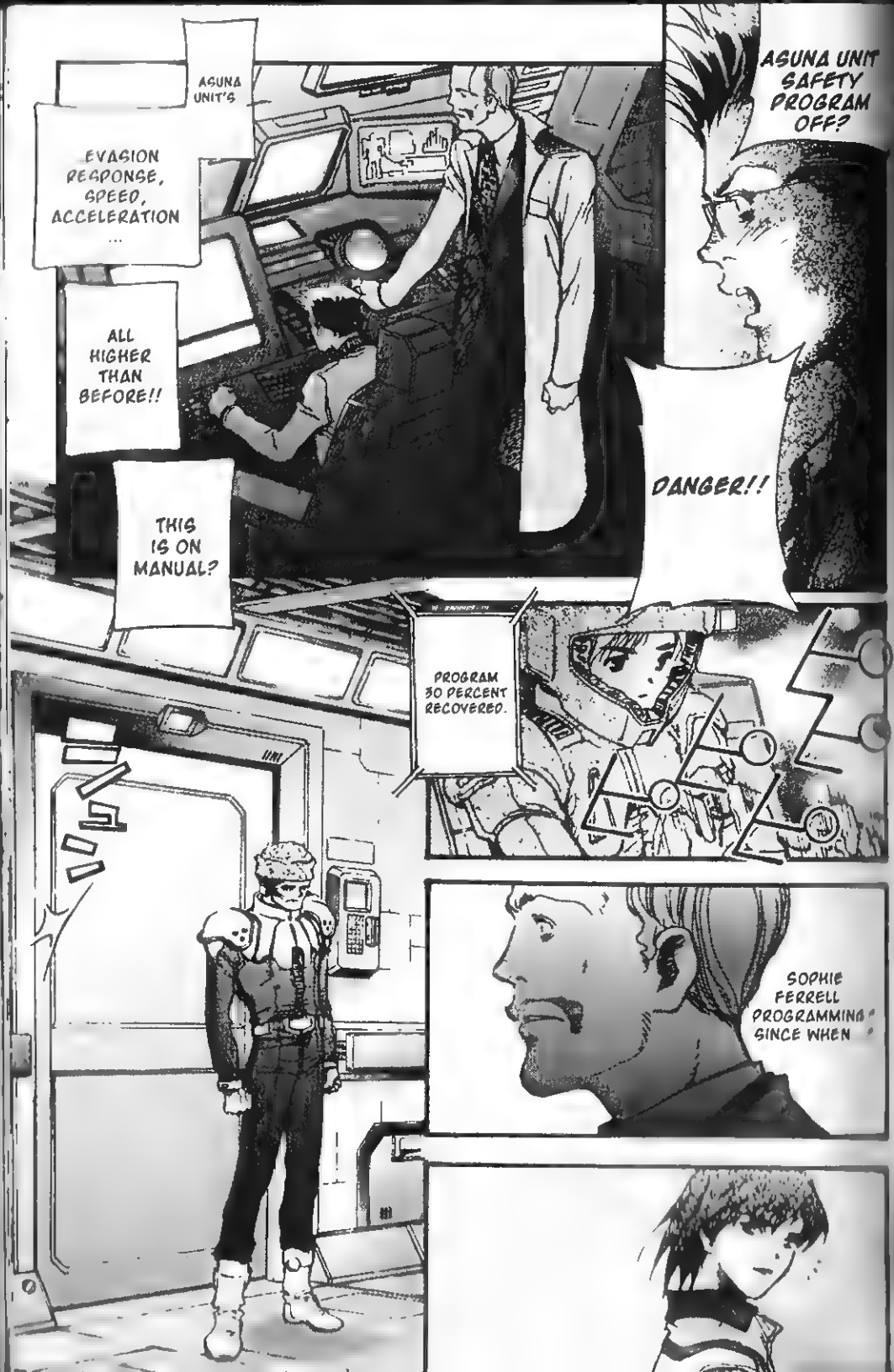


SOPHIE-SAN.
CAN YOU DO SOMETHING..
..ABOUT THAT PROGRAM HERE SOMEHOW?
I WON'T SAY I CAN'T, BUT...
. IT'S JUST

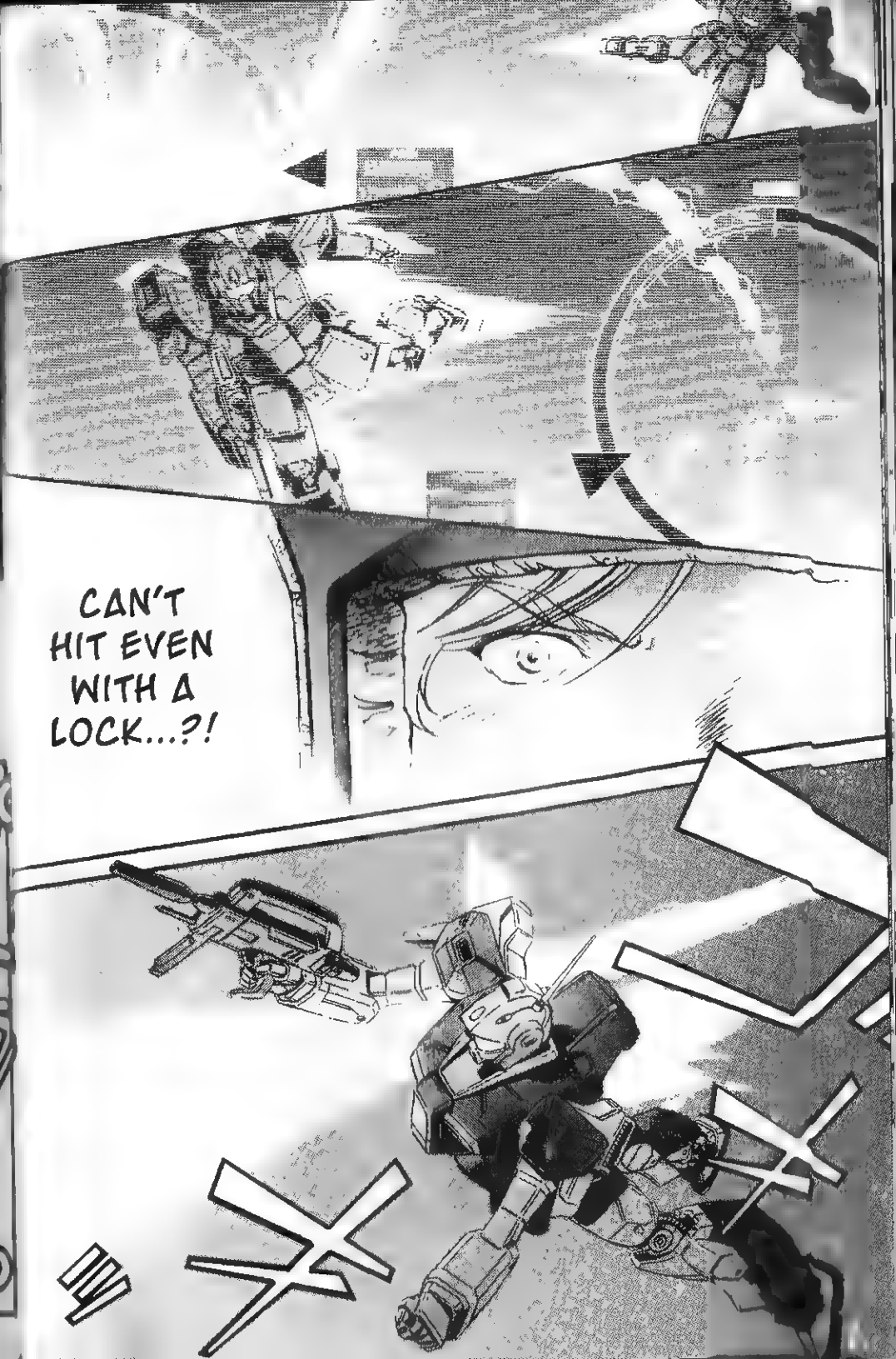
...IN THE INTERIM, IT'D BE MANUAL CONTROL... AND...
...I'LL HAVE TO SWAP MOTION PROGRAMS.

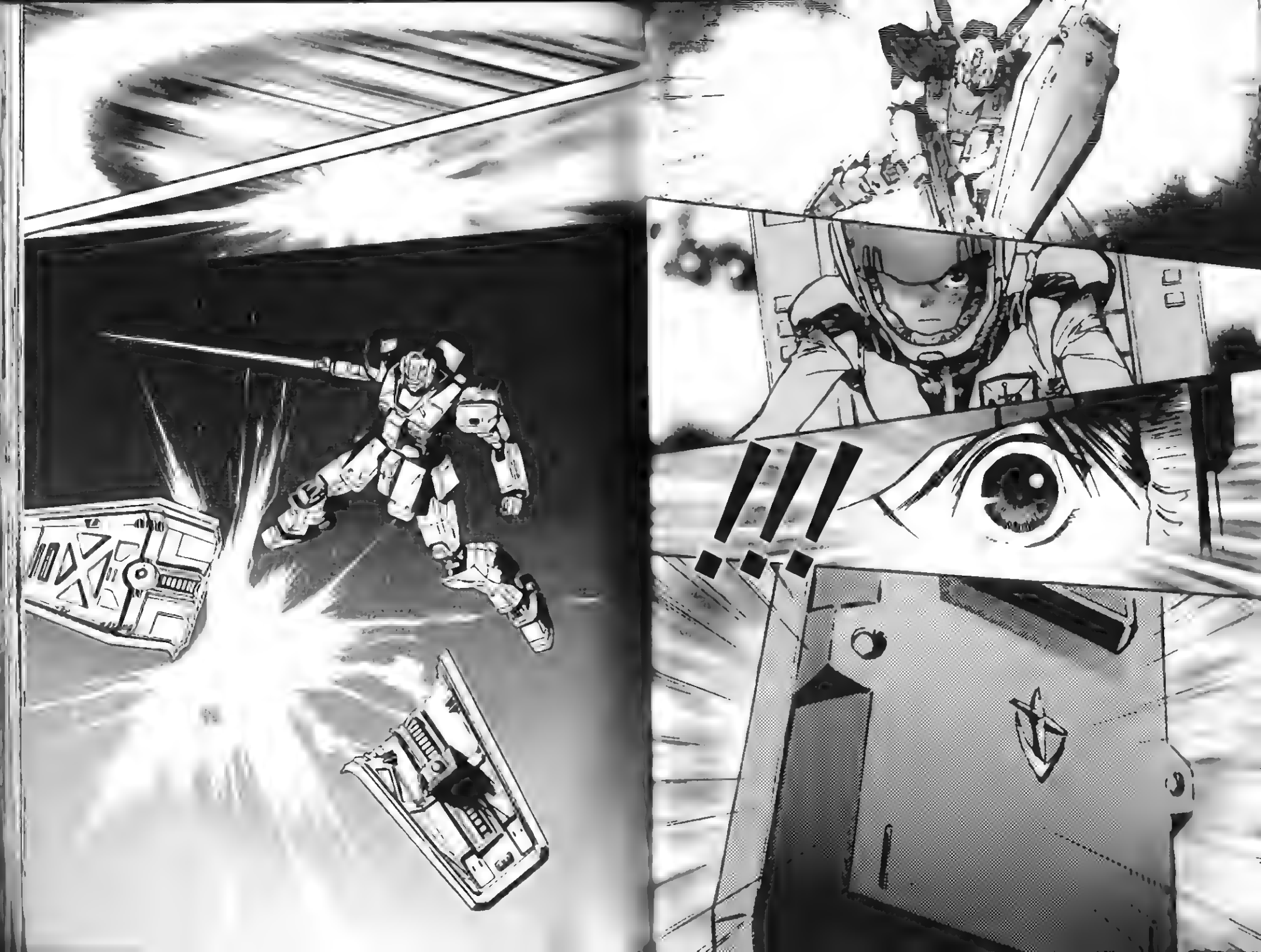

SOPHIE-SÁN, PLEASE!
THAT ATTACK..?
I'LL MANAGE WITH MANUAL!!
START-ING.
GOOD LUCK!
BUT IS IT POSSIBLE?
GOING UP AGAINST...
...THE MK-II, WITH MANUAL CONTROL..?!


SAFETY PROGRAM OFF
DANGER
TEK
NO MISTAKES!
NOT BAD!

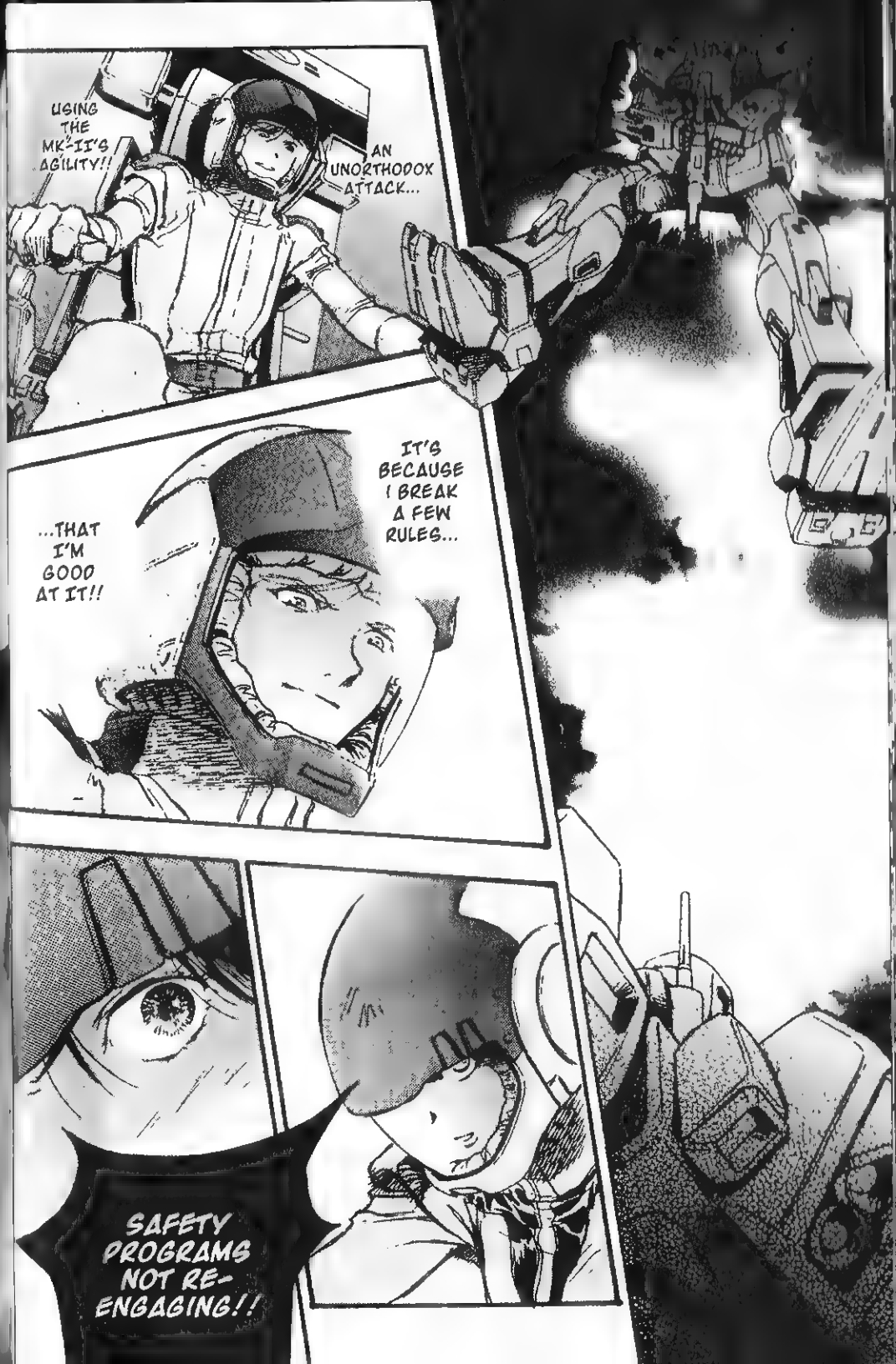

ASUNA UNIT'S
EVASION RESPONSE, SPEED, ACCELERATION ...
ALL HIGHER THAN BEFORE!!
THIS IS ON MANUAL?
ASUNA UNIT SAFETY PROGRAM OFF?
DANGER!!
PROGRAM 30 PERCENT RECOVERED.
SOPHIE FERRELL PROGRAMMING SINCE WHEN
POWER WON'T CUT IT?
UGH !!
THE GIRL'S ROUGH!!

SHE STARTS DODGING BEFORE THE ATTACK BEGINS!!
WH-WHAT IS THIS?!
WHAT?!
THIS...IS A NEWTYPE?!
MY DREAM...
MY...
88 PERCENT
58 PERCENT RECOVERED
11 PERCENT

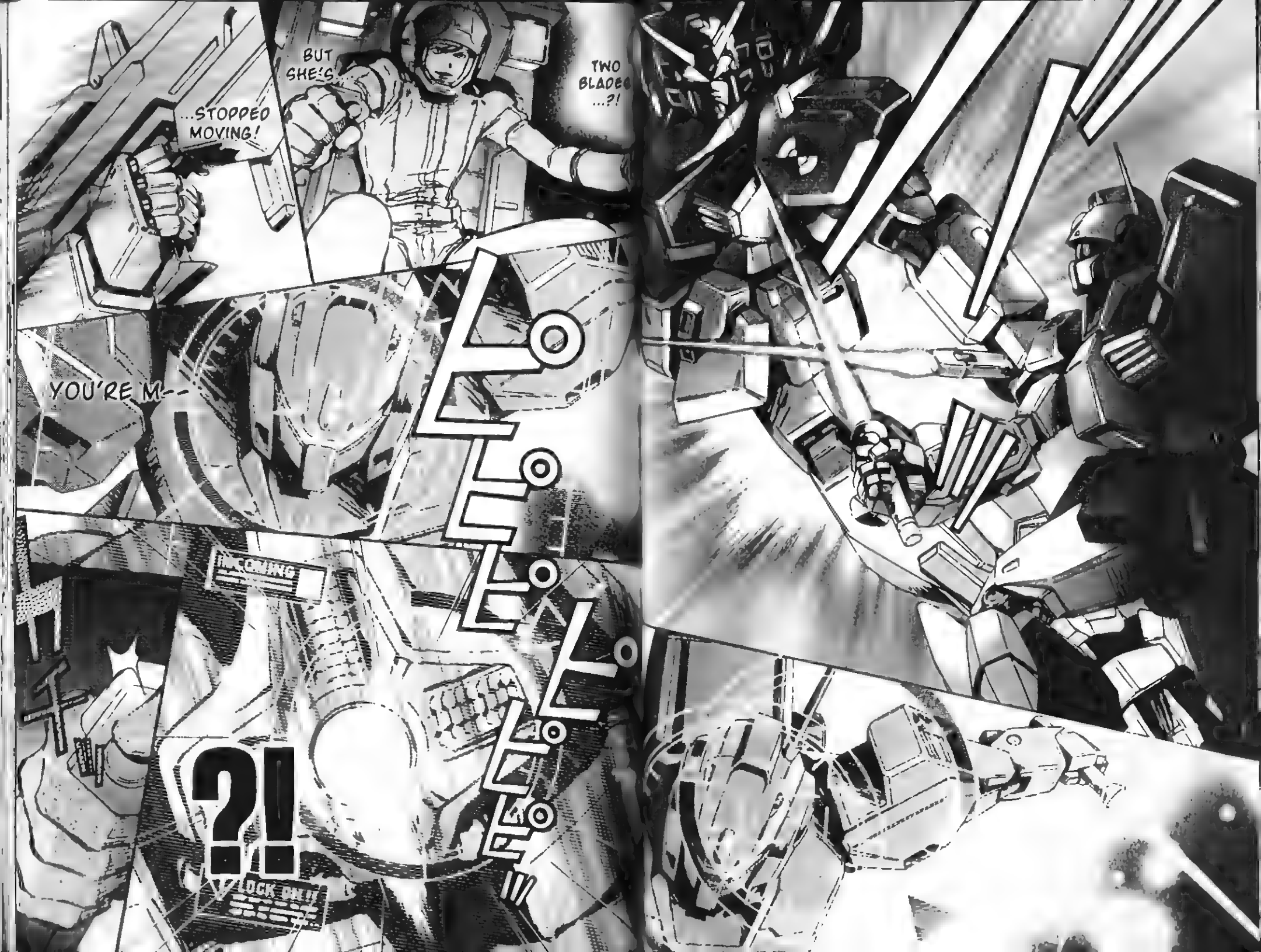

CAN'T HIT EVEN WITH A LOCK...?!

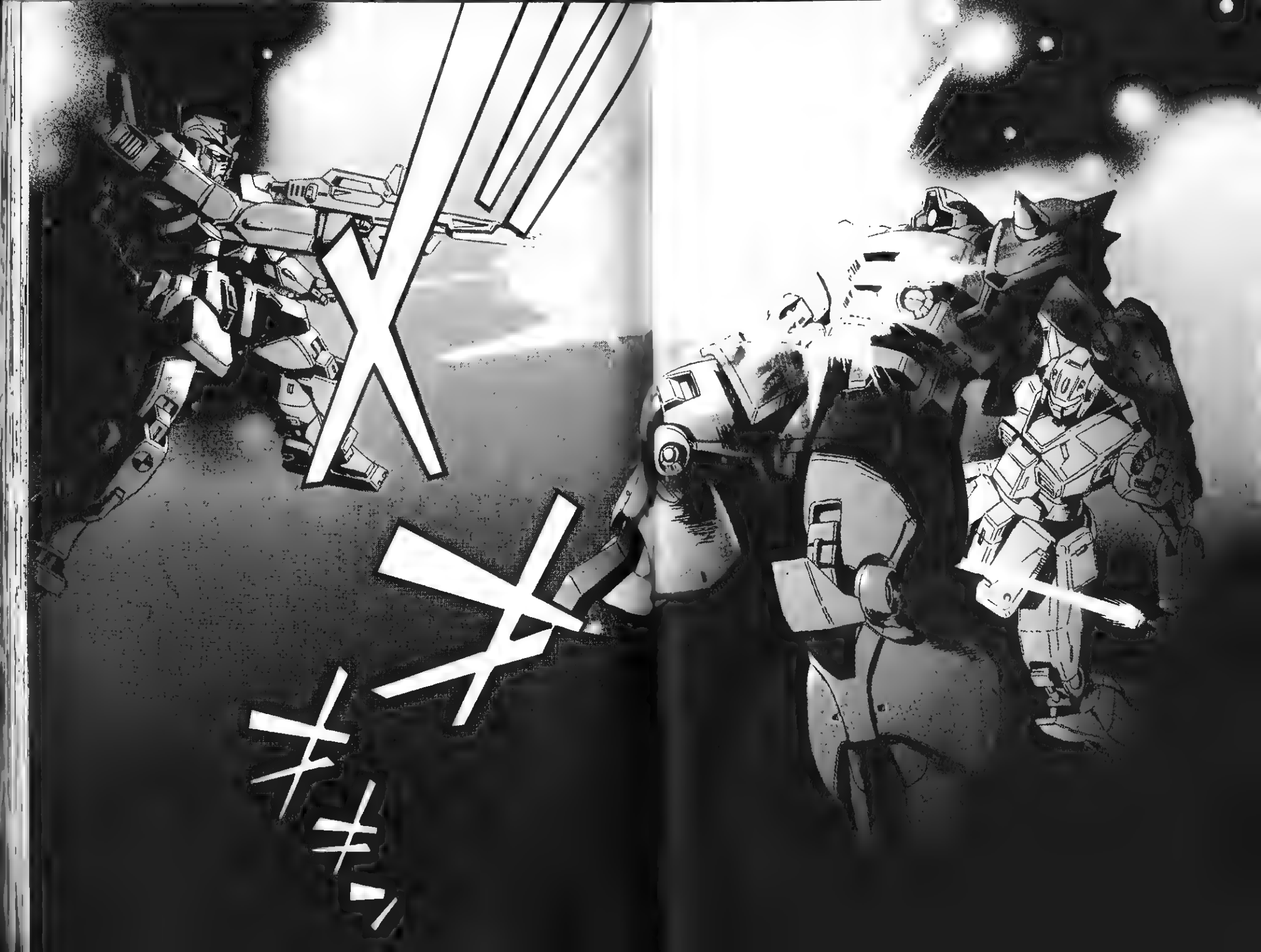


SHOULD WE STOP?!
IT'S TOO DANGEROUS!!
BUT!!
.....!!
NO NEED.
...SHEESH. YOU ENGINEERS SEE NOTHING BUT NUMBERS!
.....


USING THE MK-II'S AGILITY!!
AN UNORTHODOX ATTACK...
IT'S BECAUSE I BREAK A FEW RULES...
...THAT I'M GOOD AT IT!!
SAFETY PROGRAMS NOT RE-ENGAGING!!

THIS TIME!!
!!
SHOOTING A BEAM WITH A BEAM?!
THAT'S CRAZY!!


...STOPPED MOVING!
BUT SHE'S
TWO BLADES ...?!
YOU'RE M--
ピピピピピピ
?!
LOCK ON!!



BAD MAINT AIN'T CALLING THIS TEST OFF.
I AM!!
DUNDAGGER!!
LIVES DON'T GROW ON TREES.
ALL WORKED UP OVER MOCK COMBAT
CONFIRM I.D. OF THE BOGEY!
STOP THE TEST!
STOP THE TEST!
...ONE OF OURS.
NO NEED
...SHEESH.
MY DREAM....
FRANCIS!!
NII-SAN!!

DUMB SISTER...
DIRECT HIT!! STAY BACK!!
NII-SAN!!
THIS IS JACK BAIRO.
RECOVERING RICK DOM WITH AGUNA ELMARIT.

MY DREAM IS...
...TO MAINTAIN NII-SAN'S MACHINE.
THEN ...
...WE COULD LIVE TOGETHER...
THEN ...

ER ...
I CAN'T
I MEAN...
WHEN THE TIME COMES..
...CAN I COUNT ON YOU, ASUNA-SAN?

AND AN APOLOGY TO MAKE ...
WE HAVE SOMETHING TO CLEAR UP.
HE'S A WONDERFUL PILOT.
...YOU HAVE ENSIGN BAIRD HERE..

CAN YOU FORGIVE US?
SEEMS THE TEST WENT BAD 'CAUSE OF ONE OF MY BOYS.

BIG HELP.
WE'RE NICELY PATCHED UP, THANKS TO YOU.
PLENTY OF SUPPLIES REPLENISHED, TOO, HUH?
WE'VE GATHERED SUBSTANTIAL DATA FOR OUR PART.
WE WANT YOU BACK FOR NEXT TIME.

HEH!
PROPS FOR ME I GUESS.
YOU WERE INCREDIBLE WITH THAT SABER.
OVER THERE, WITH FRANCIS.
SOPHIE-SAN'S...?
IT SORTA HELPED OUT IN THE END REALLY...
NO NEED ...
HA HA...
YOU'RE A MARVELOUS PILOT, ASUNA.
SORRY FOR BEING SO RUDE.
PILOTING MANUAL LIKE THAT...
THAT'LL KEEP HIM HUMBLE FOR A BIT.
WELL.
HE THINKS HE'S ALIVE 'CAUSE SOPHIE'S PROGRAM FINALLY KICKED IN.
YOU NOTICED ..?
WELL, THEY NEEDED A GOOD PUSH.
THEY DON'T KNOW YOU WERE IN TRAINING MODE THE WHOLE TIME

Side 3 Colony #26
"Achilles"
FRANCIS ...
..GO NOT COOL--!!
MARIE ...
...INCOMING MESSAGE FROM THE TITANS.
!!
FINALLY, HUH..?
MOON'S A ROUGH PLACE.
TITANS!

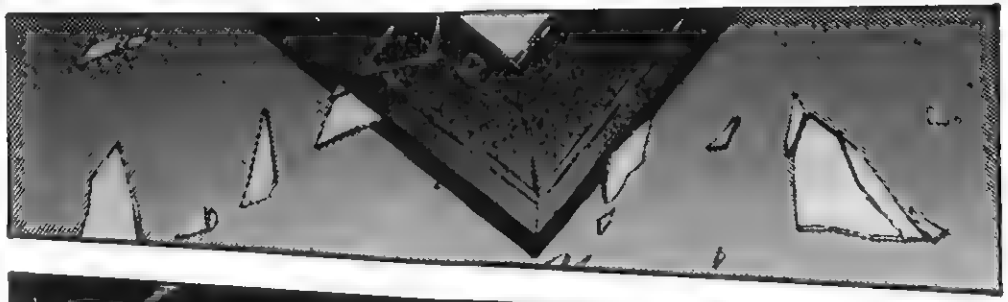
Anaheim Electronics

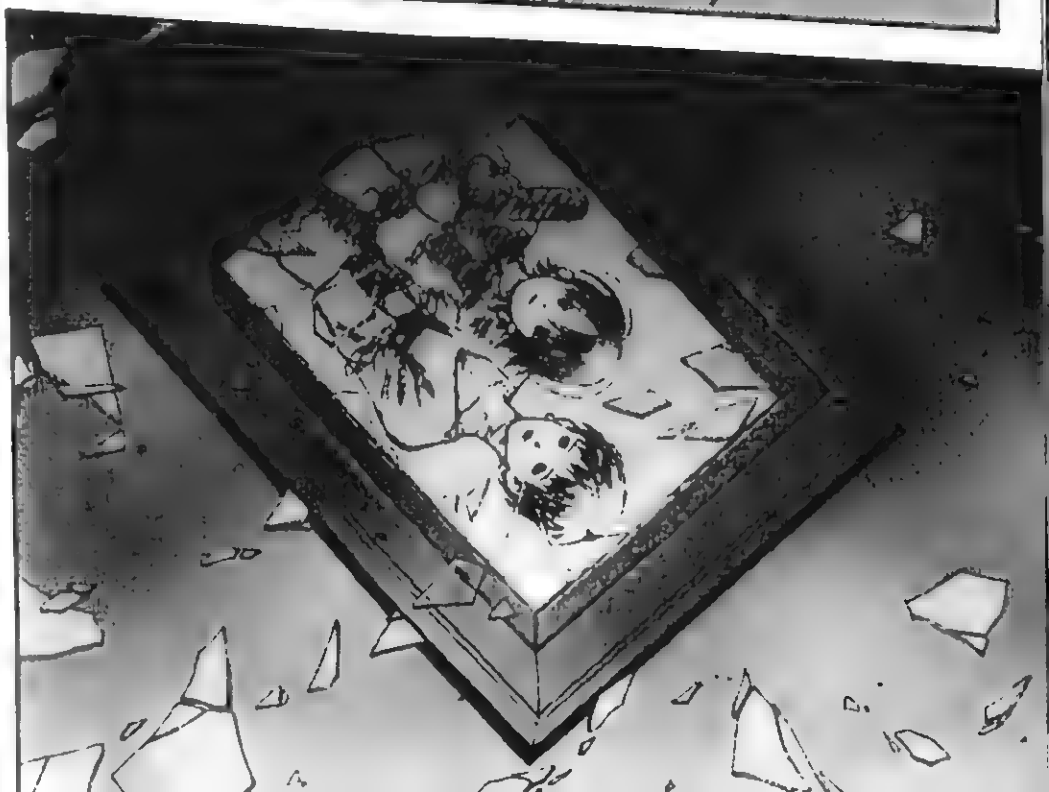
External MS construction after the One Year War. During the Delaz Conflict, created the Federation GP01~GP03 prototype Gundams and the Delaz Fleet's GP04 (Gerbera Tetra). Also known as "The Merchants of Death of the Universal Century" for selling to both sides during the Gryphon War.

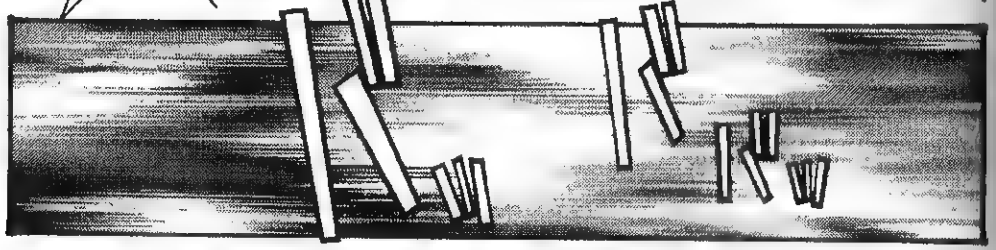
Its many Spacenoid sympathizers conduct various illegal activities in support of AEUG, such as analyzing an Mk-II it hijacked from the Titans.

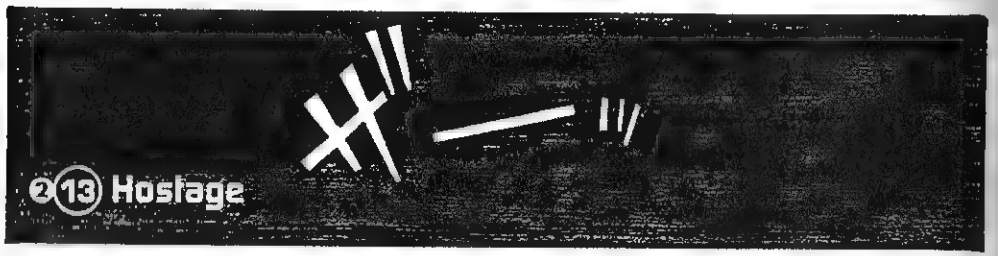
▲ Lucas Mellnes, R&D Chief, running Mk-II spec tests. One of Marie's sponsors perhaps...?

▲ To keep the existence of the stolen MS secret, the Mk-II is analyzed with minimal staff.









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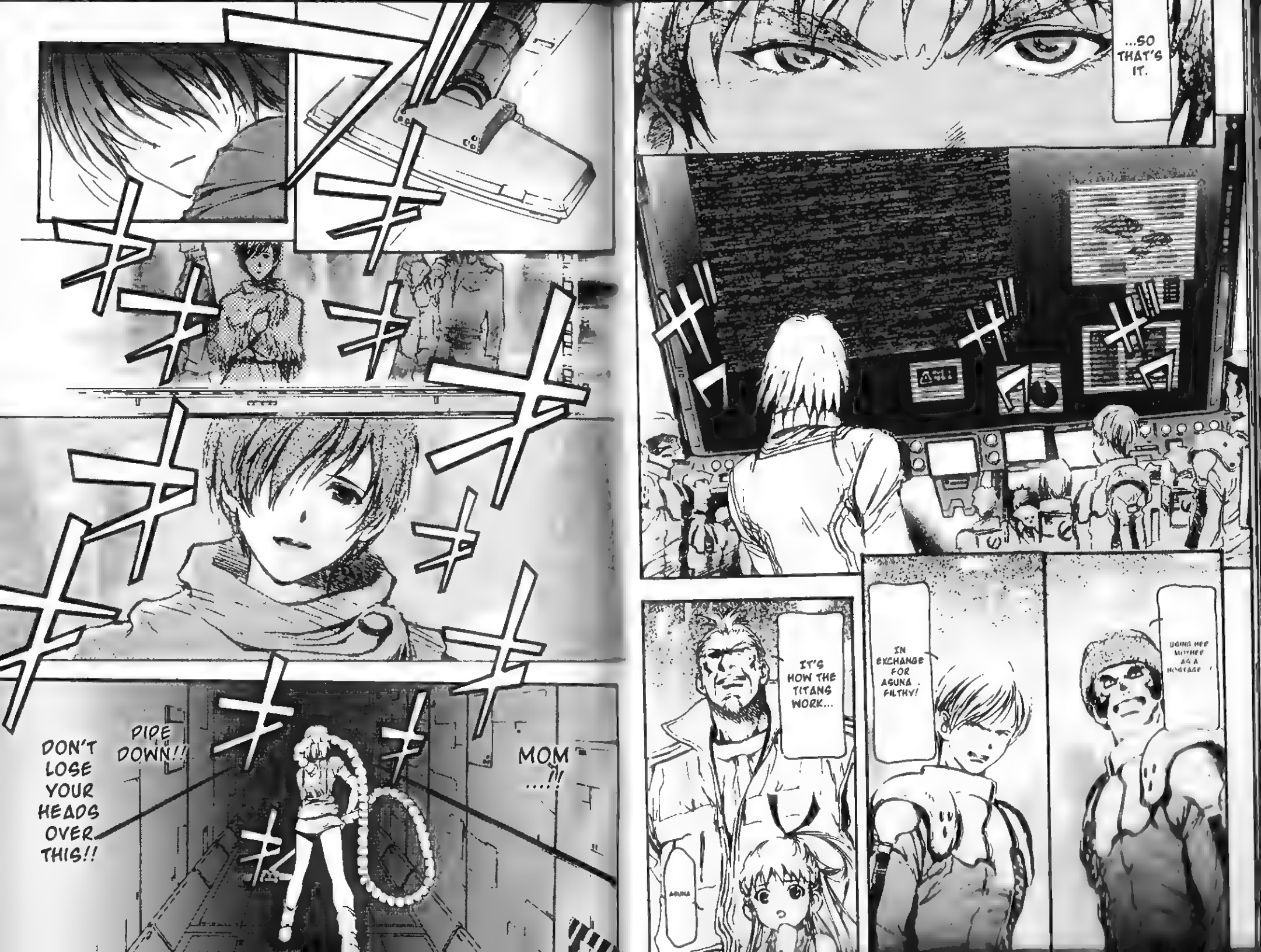
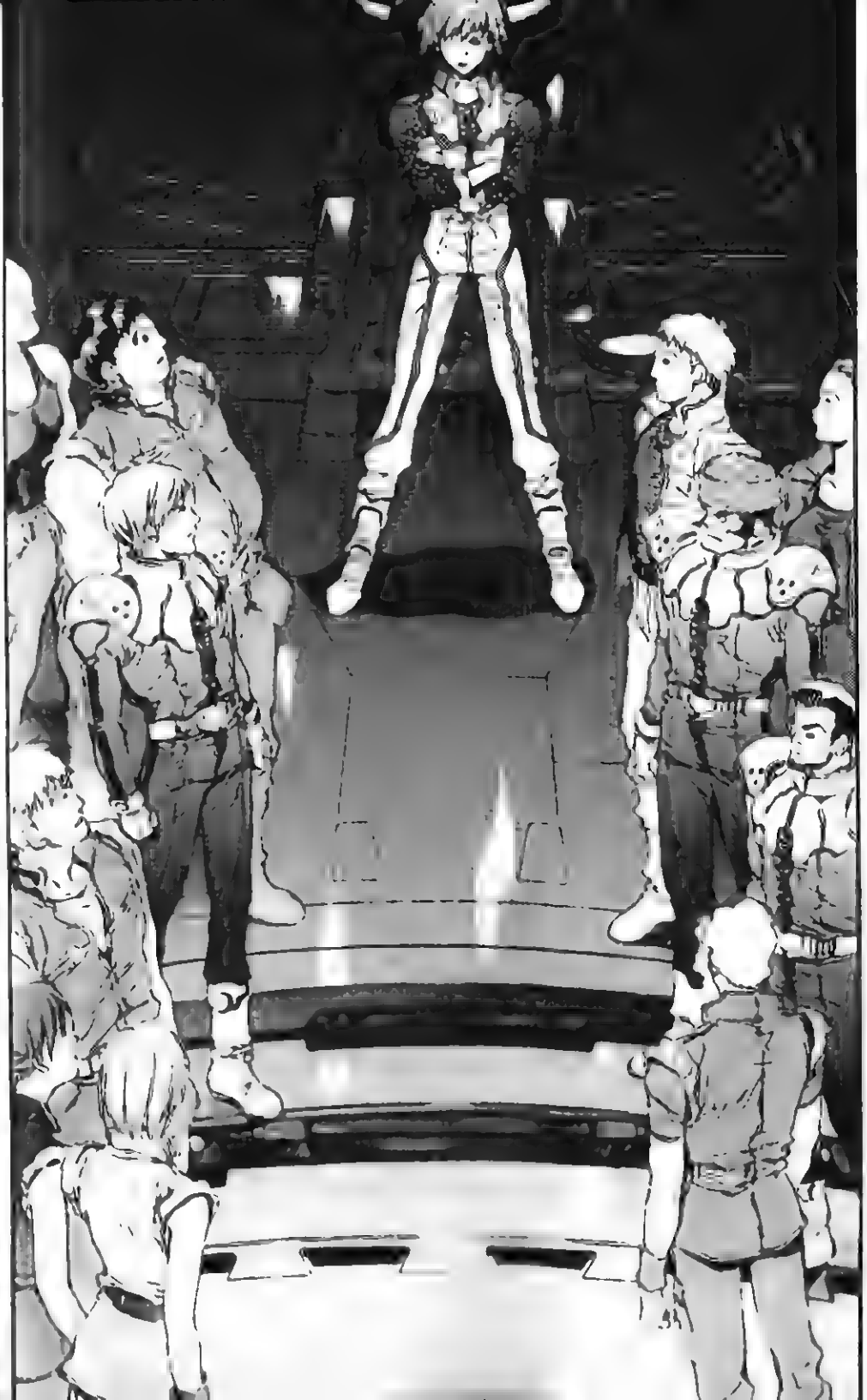

...SO THAT'S IT.
USING HER MOTHER AS A HOSTAGE
IN EXCHANGE FOR AGUNA. FILTHY!
IT'S HOW THE TITANS WORK...
AGUNA
MOM ...!!
PIPE DOWN!!
DON'T LOSE YOUR HEADS OVER THIS!!

I BELIEVE THIS WILL BE OUR LAST JOB
WILL RESCUE AGUNA'S MOTHER-- HARUKA ELMARIT
I...
MARIA?
LAST
!!RESOLUTION!!
THAT'S RIGHT.

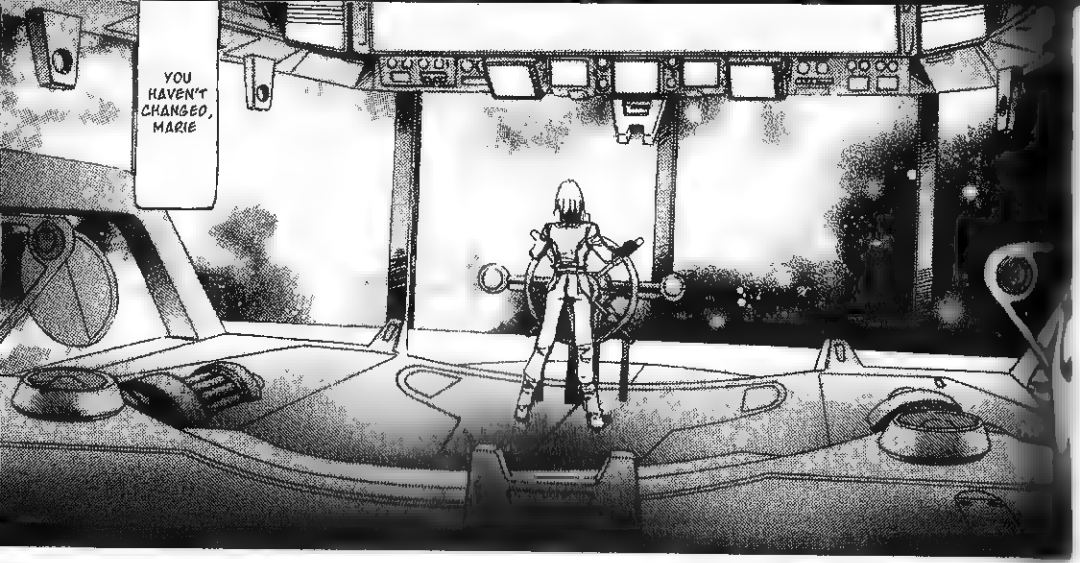


SO THEY'RE LURING US IN?
...STRAIGHT TO THEM, NOT DESIGNATE A LOCATION FOR A HOSTAGE EXCHANGE.
IF THEY WANTED AGUNA ALONE, THEY'D LURE HER...
CUT OFF ALL THE LOOSE ENDS.
BUT THIS TIME ONLY, I WANT YOUR OPINIONS, TOO.
I'VE MADE ALL THE DECISIONS 'TIL NOW...

DON'T TELL ME THIS THING'S SHAKING YOU UP.
EXPLAIN WHY, DAMMIT!!
DON'T KID AROUND!! WHY ALL OF A--?
EHH?
..LIKE ALWAYS. IT'LL BE FUN!!
WE'LL JUST TAKE CARE OF IT...
THEY'LL CATCH UP SOONER OR LATER.
THEY'VE BEEN AFTER US SINCE THAT SALAMIS RAID.
TIME'S GOOD
THEY'RE DESPERATE.
PULLING ON THE THREAD OF THAT INCIDENT COULD UNRAVEL THE WHOLE THING.

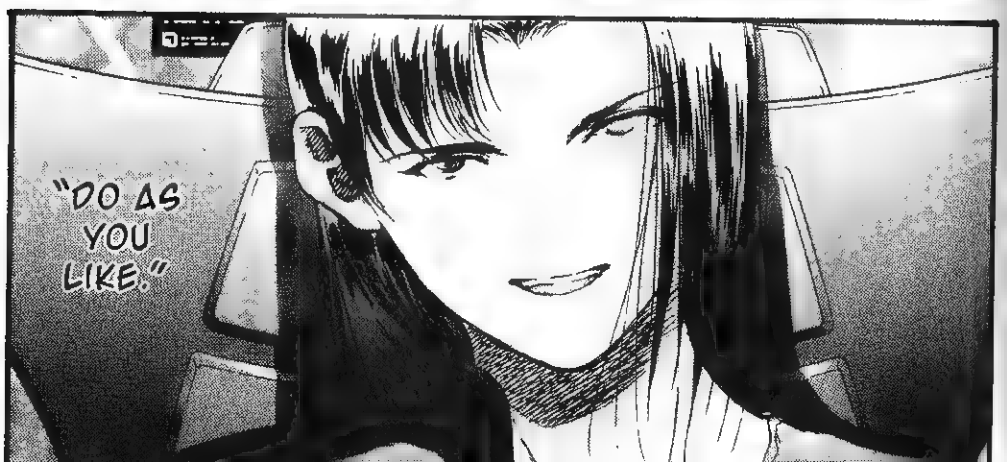
DO AS YOU LIKE.
I WON'T HOLD IT AGAINST YOU.
ANYONE WHO WANTS OUT, ASK.
I COULDN'T LIVE QUIETLY NOW ANYWAY.
I'M HEADING WHERE MARIE'S HEADING.
IN SHOCK I IMAGINE..
I SPOKE WITH HER EARLIER.
ASUNA..?
..I'LL WAIT 24 HOURS.
BUT SOME OF YOU PROBABLY THINK DIFFERENTLY...
I WANT TO PUT THE SALAMIS INCIDENT BEHIND ME.
THAT'S WHY.
IF WE GO, WE MAY NOT COME OUT OF IT IN ONE PIECE.

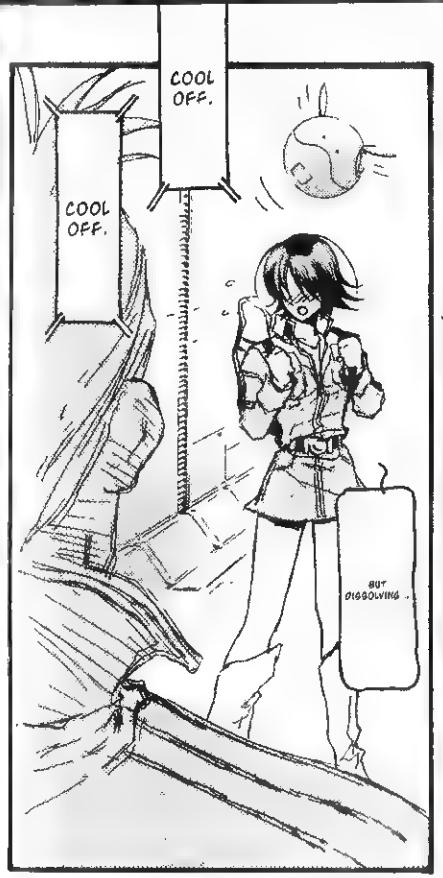
NICE FOR A KID, HUH?
HO HO HO.
FOUND IT TOSSED AWAY ON THE MOON.
WHO'S A KID?
HA HA HA
WHERE, WHERE?
IT'S NOT VERY NICE ...
THINKING DUMB THINGS AGAIN?
.....
ASUNA, WHERE YOU GOING?


YOU HAVEN'T CHANGED, MARIE

...YOU SAID THE SAME THING.
WHEN I TRIED TO RUN OFF...
...OR STOWED AWAY ON THE PAZOCK NEXT DOOR...

.....

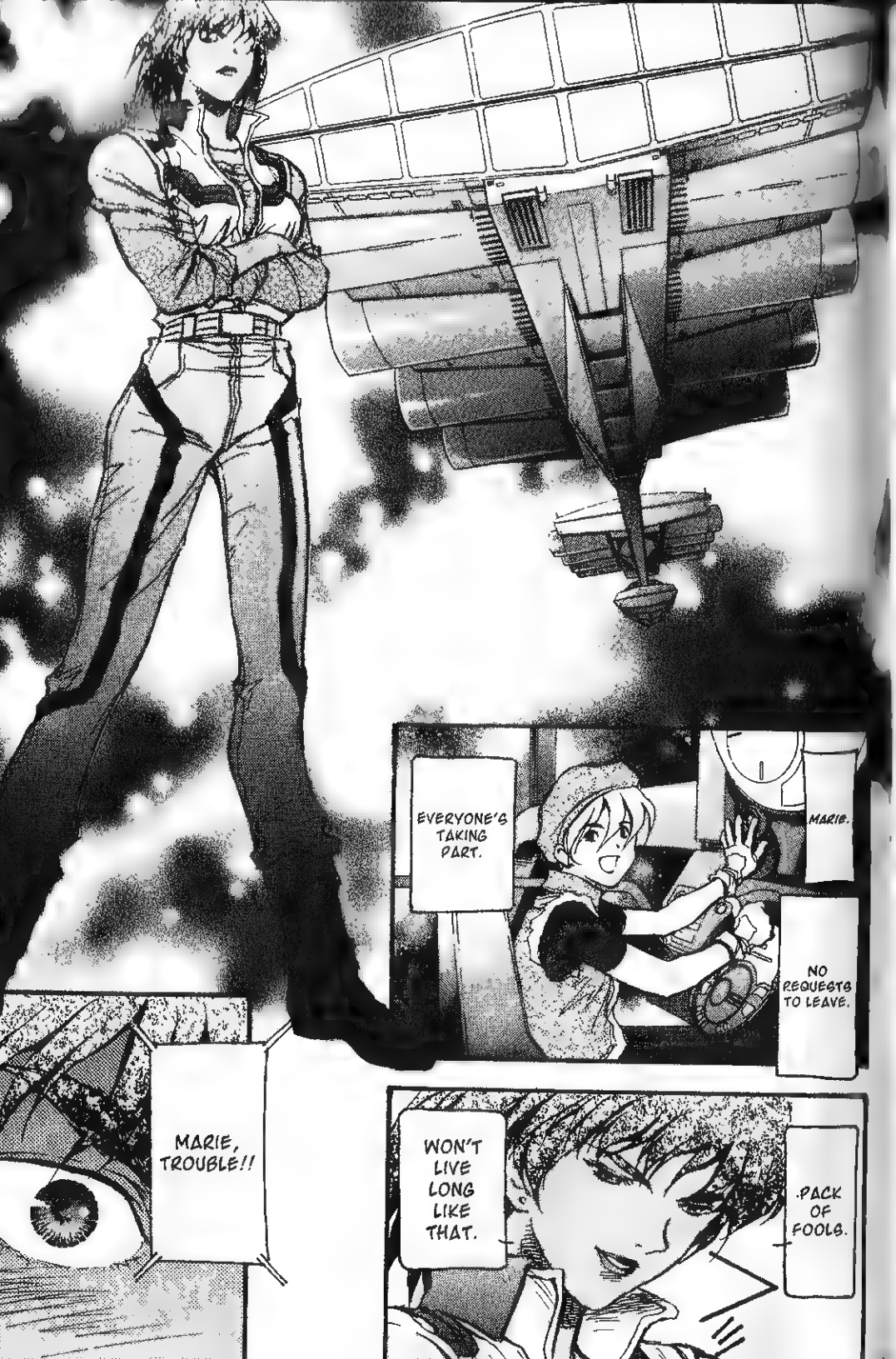

"DO AS YOU LIKE."


COOL OFF.
COOL OFF.
BUT DIGGOLVING

WE'RE ALL TARGETS HERE.
NO USE HEADING OFF BY YOURSELF.
SO COOL OFF!!

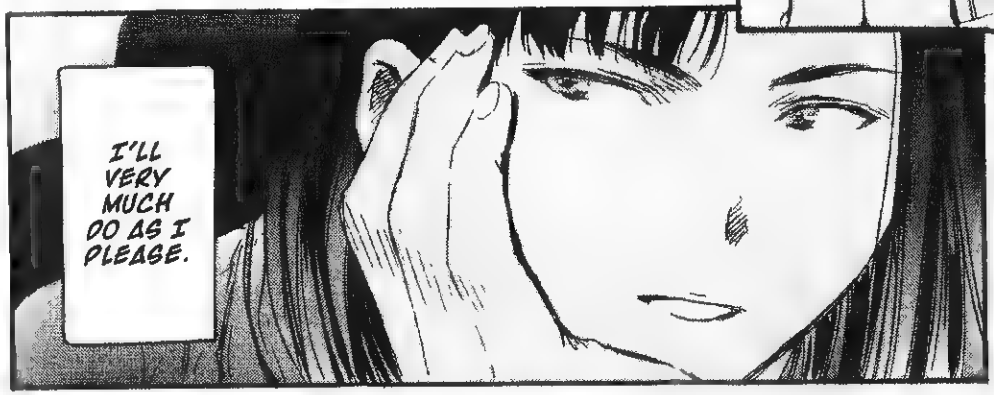
WONDER WHERE I'D GO...

BEEN FIXING THINGS ALL MY LIFE...
CAN'T CHANGE MY WAYS NOW.

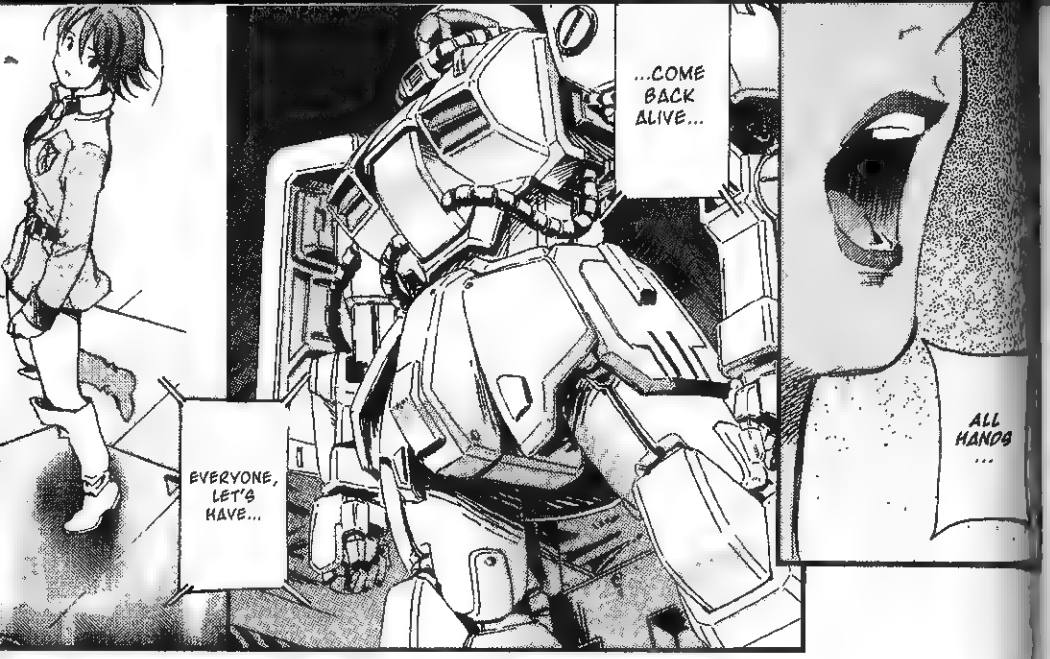

EVERYONE'S TAKING PART.
MARIE.
NO REQUESTS TO LEAVE.
MARIE, TROUBLE!!
WON'T LIVE LONG LIKE THAT.
PACK OF FOOLS.

I WAS A LIFELONG GUINEA PIG... IT FELT LIKE APPROVAL OF MY EXISTENCE.
IT WAS MUSIC TO MY EARS.
SO THIS TIME...

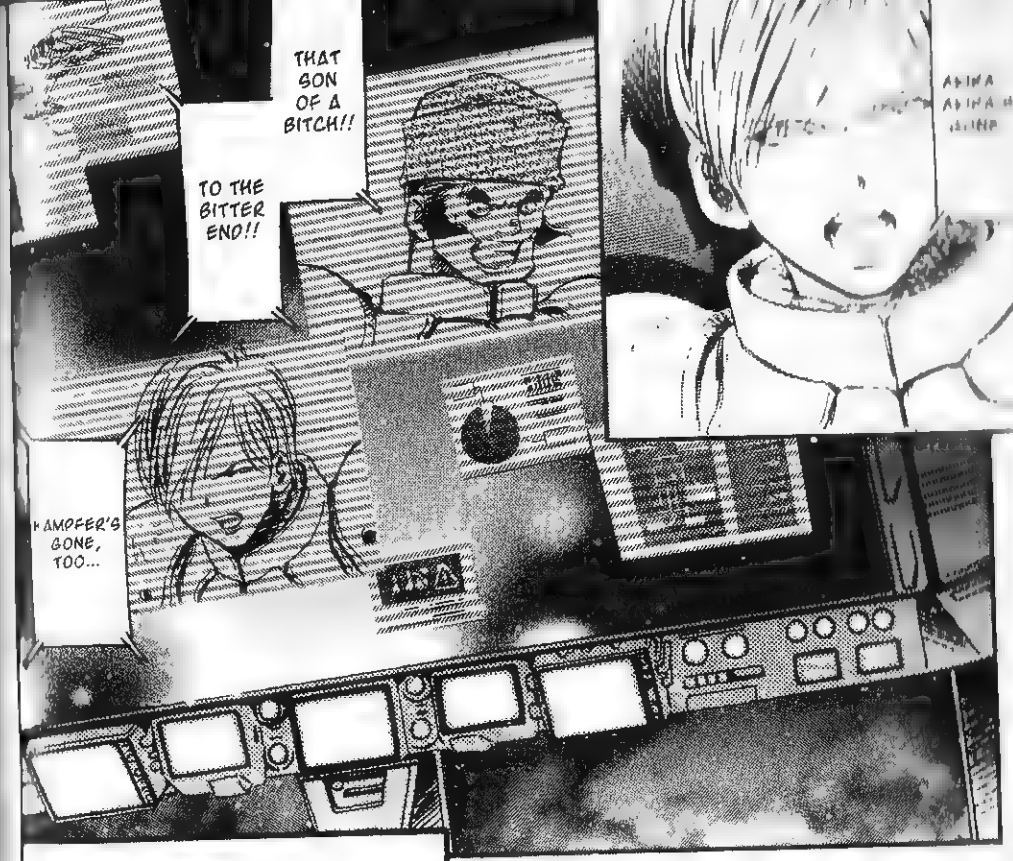
I SUPPOSE
IT'S JUST A SAVING

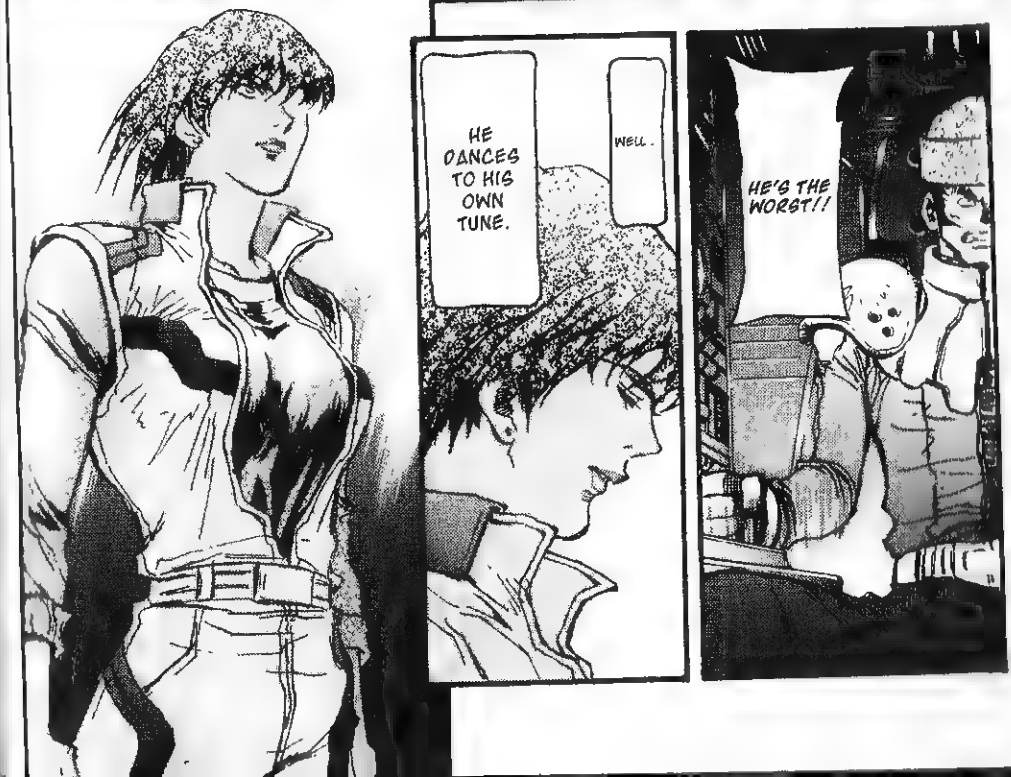

I'LL VERY MUCH DO AS I PLEASE.

.....


...COME BACK ALIVE...
EVERYONE, LET'S HAVE...
ALL HANDS ...

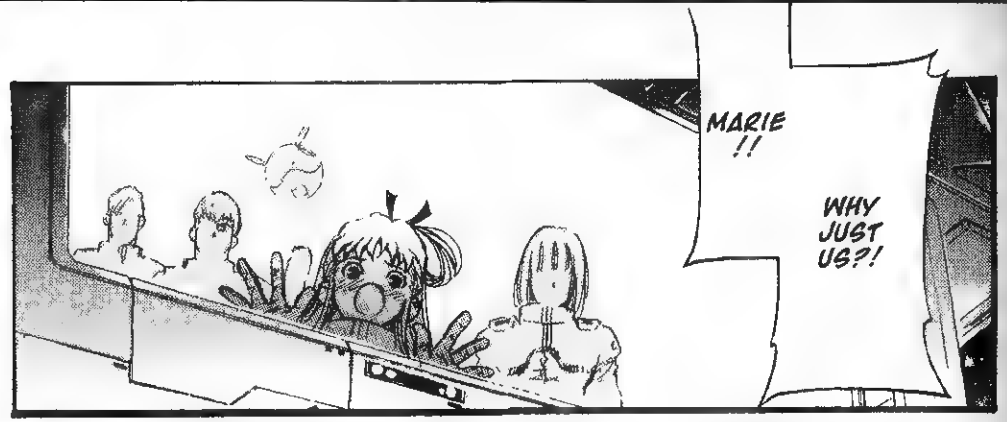
...ONE MORE...
...GRAND FINALE!!!


THAT SON OF A BITCH!!
TO THE BITTER END!!
AHMA AHMA
AMOFER'S GONE, TOO...

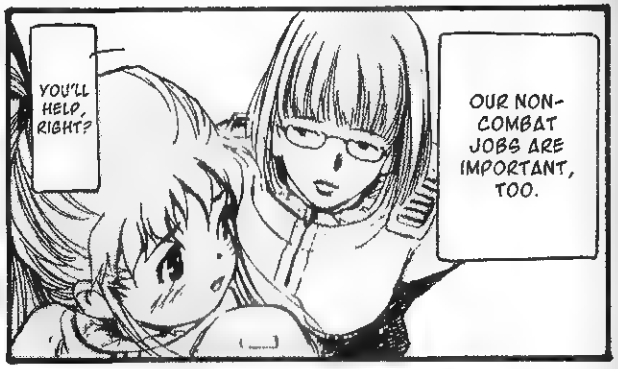

HE DANCES TO HIS OWN TUNE.
WELL.
HE'S THE WORST!!

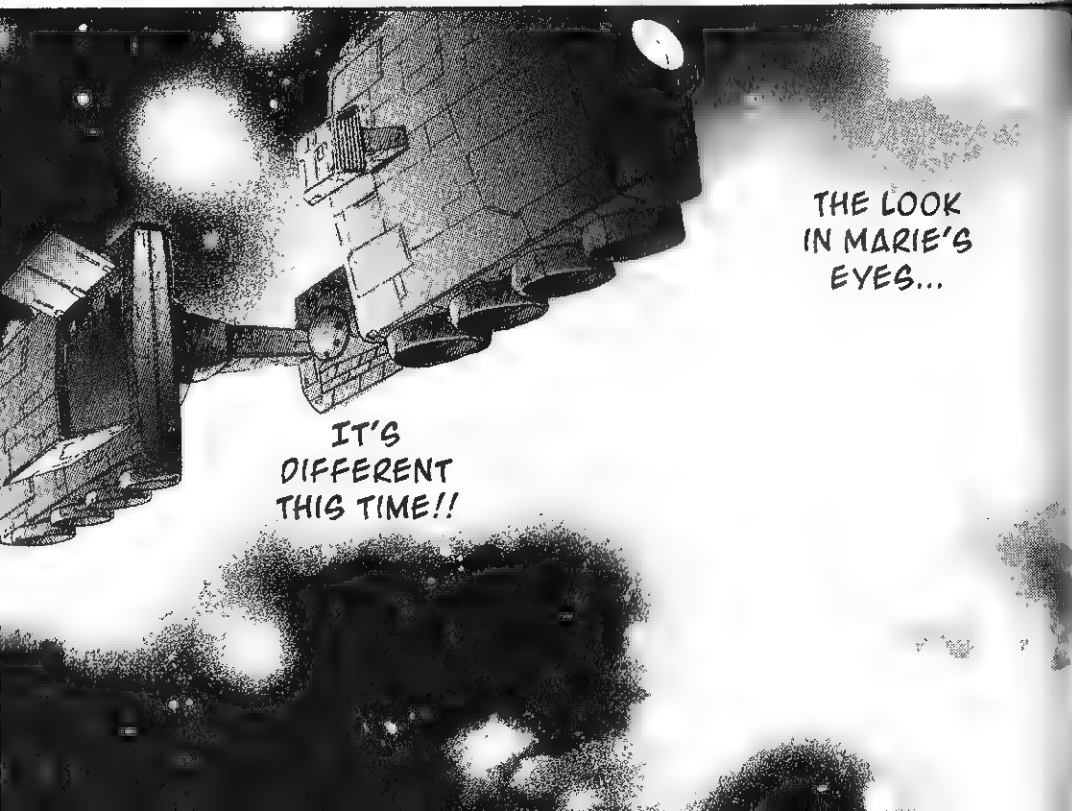
TRAINING

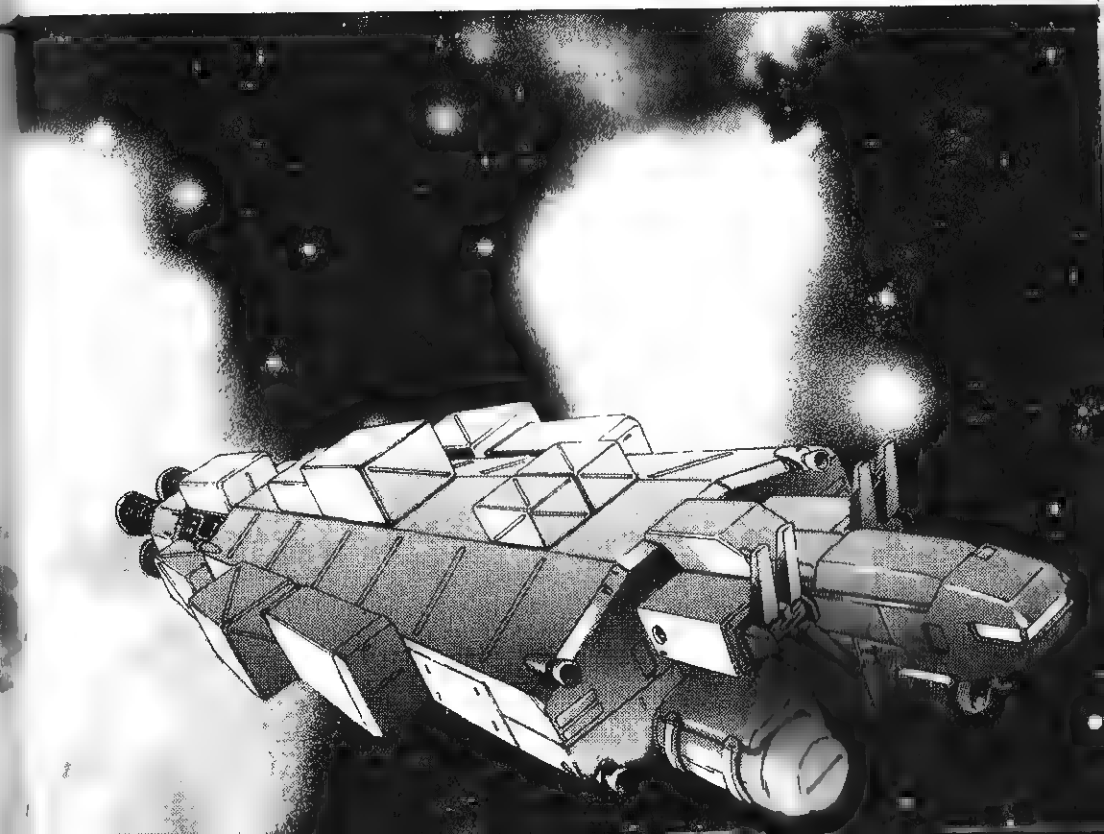
YEAH!!


MARIE !!
WHY JUST US?!

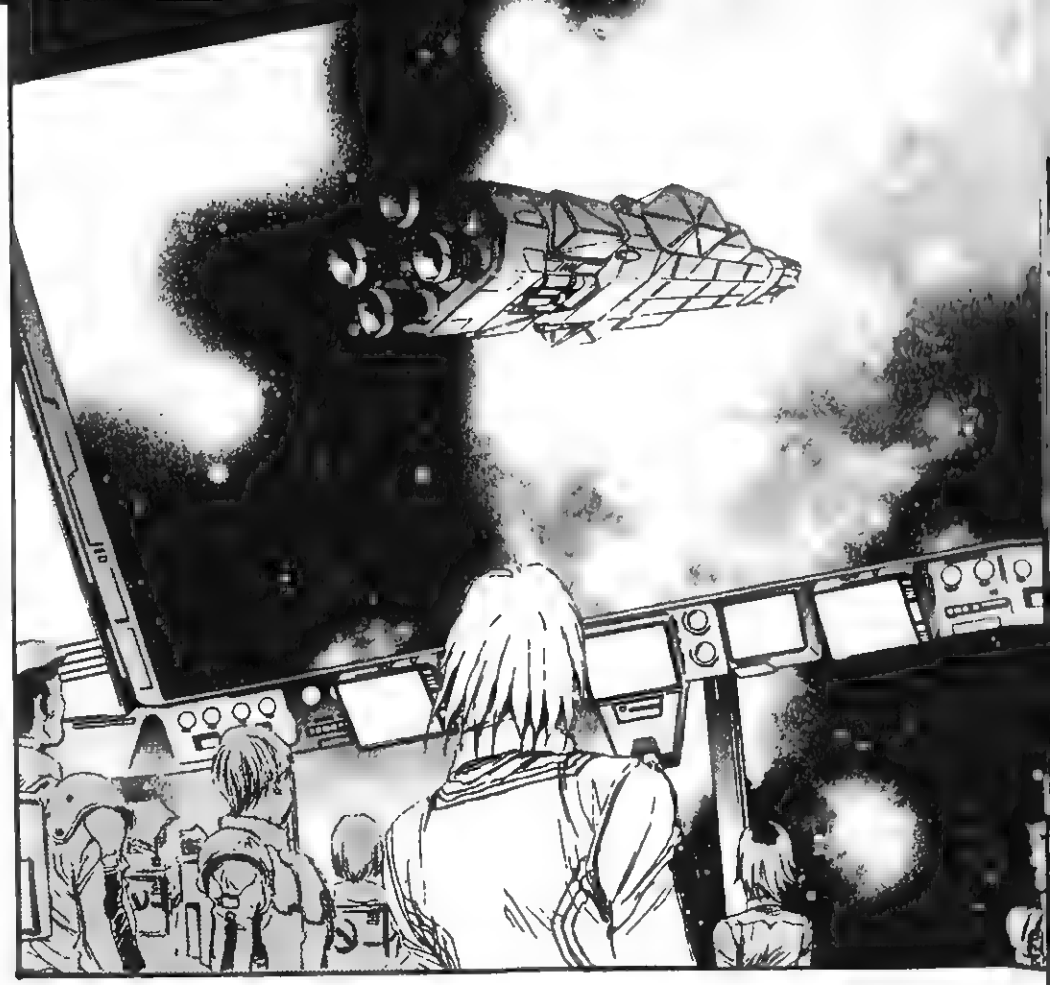
DON'T YOU SEE IT?


YOU'LL HELP, RIGHT?
OUR NON-COMBAT JOBS ARE IMPORTANT, TOO.

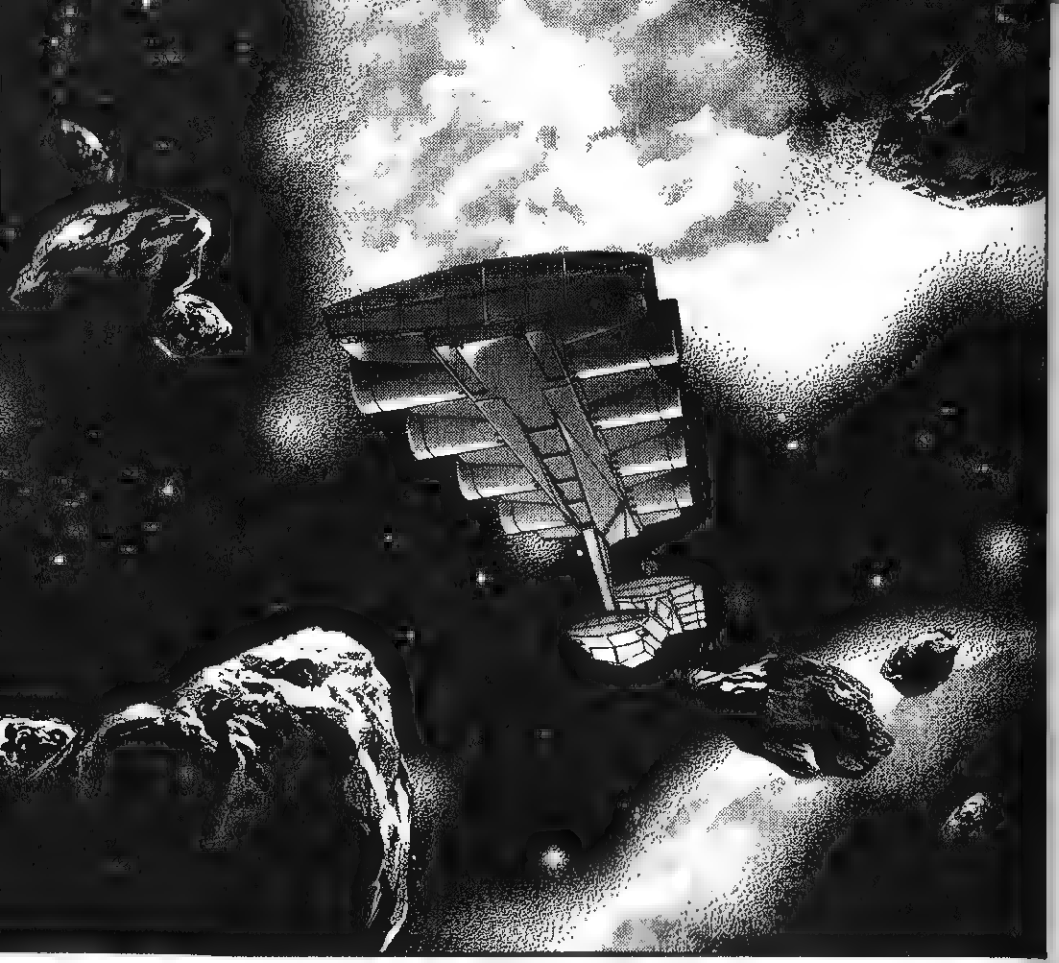

THE LOOK IN MARIE'S EYES...
IT'S DIFFERENT THIS TIME!!



YO!
INTRO-DUCE ME TO YER HOT MOM!!
YOU NEED TO PUT A LID ON IT!
HEY, I'M NOT GONNA DO ANYTHING BAD.
SMALL-MINDED...
YOU'RE ONE TO TALK!



ALL RIGHT!
LET'S BEGIN!!

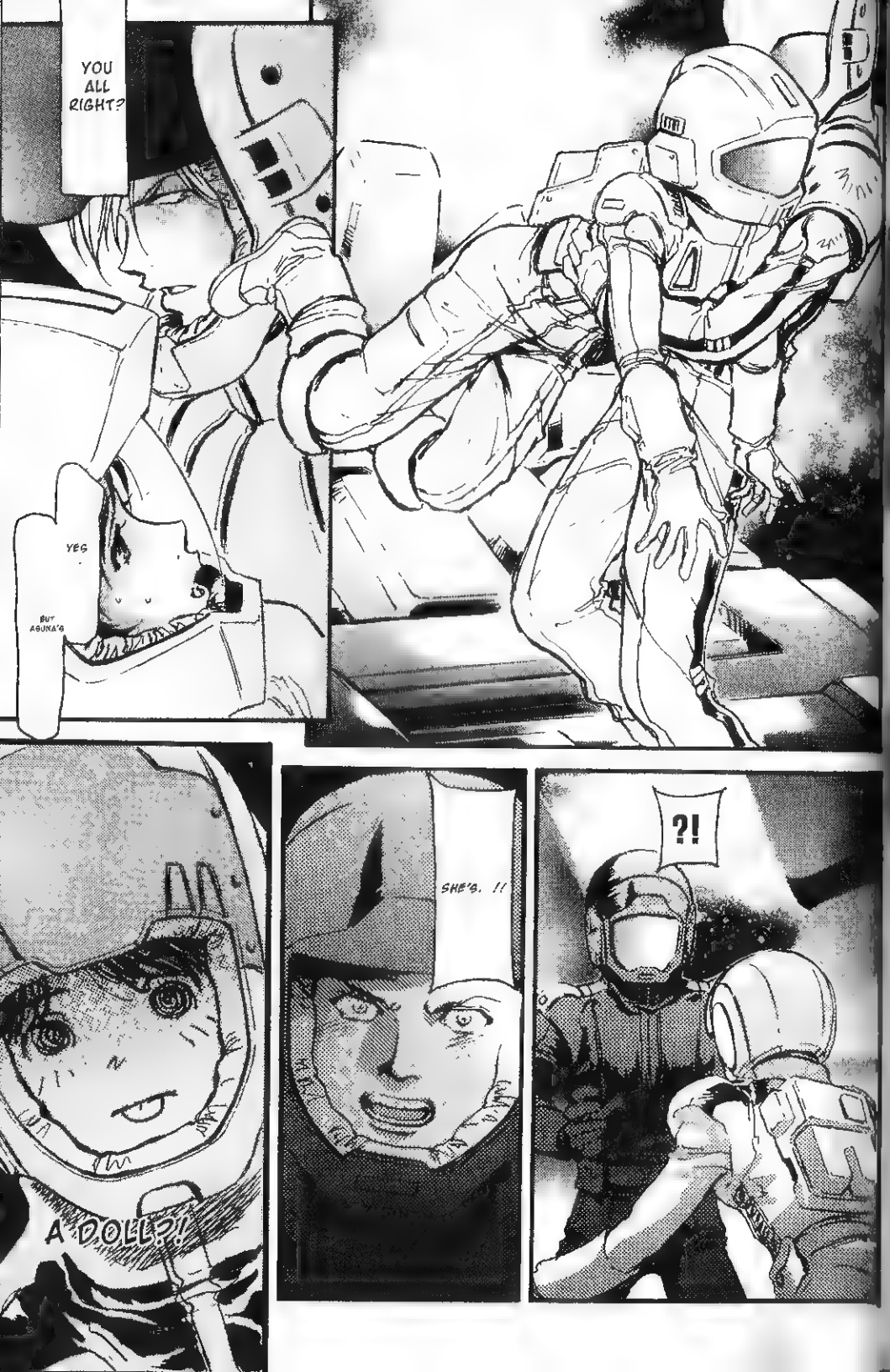


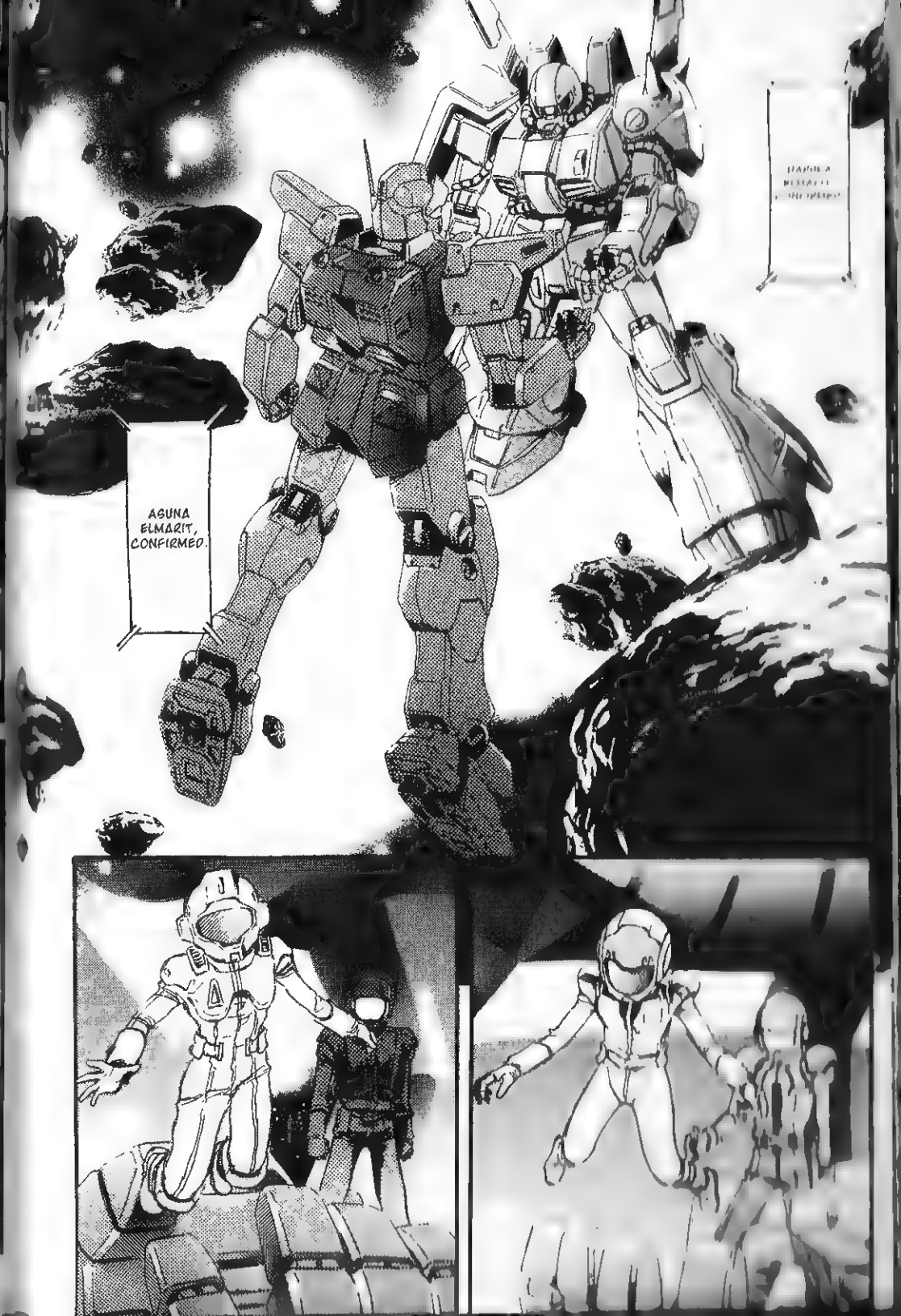
Alexandria-class Belgrade

SEND OUT THE HIZACK!
MORE CONVENTIONAL THAN I EXPECTED.
WE'RE AT THE WAYPOINT.

...WE'LL JUST SQUISH THEM.
IF THEY TRY ANYTHING FUNNY...
CAPTAIN.
IS THERE A REASON YOU DESIGNATED THIS PLACE?
HMPH!
THEY'RE ONLY PIRATES

AFTER CONFIRMATION, EXCHANGE ASUNA ELMARIT FOR HARUKA ELMARIT.
ONE OTHER PERSON ON TOP OF THE HAND TO CONFIRM.
HOSTAGE EXCHANGE WITH TWO DISARMED M.S.


YOU ALL RIGHT?
YES
BUT AGUNA'S
A D.O.L.L.?!
SHE'S. !!
?!


AGUNA ELMARIT, CONFIRMED.

CHARACTER FILE: 16

Sophie Ferrell

Sophie Ferrell

Works as a green engineer for Anaheim Electronics on the outskirts of Anman on the moon. Left home against her brother's will to work and continue studying to be a Mobile Suit engineer.

▼ Sophie back in school. Lost parents in the One Year War.

▼ Rides in Asuna's Nemo to record training data. Repairs program.

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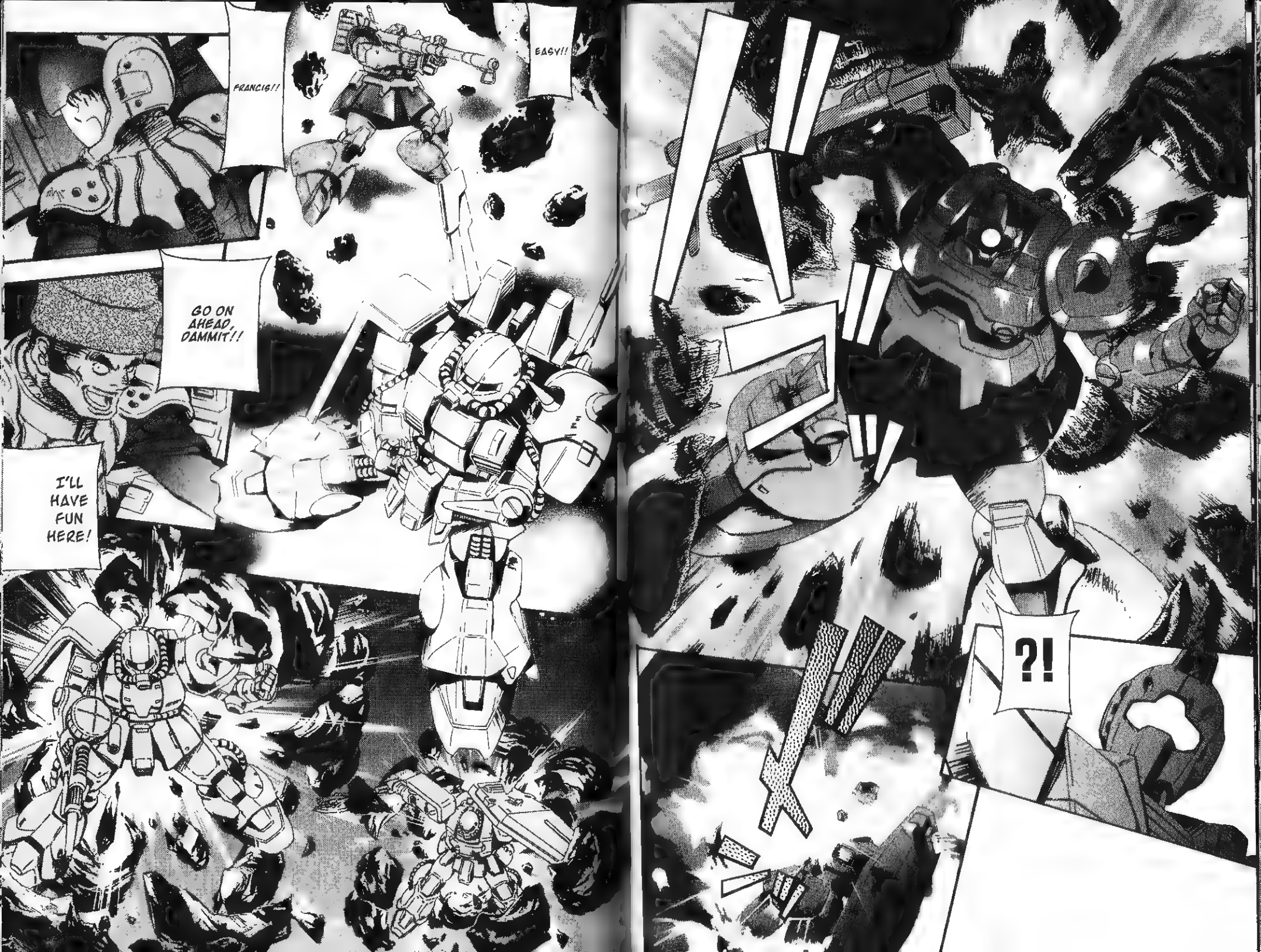
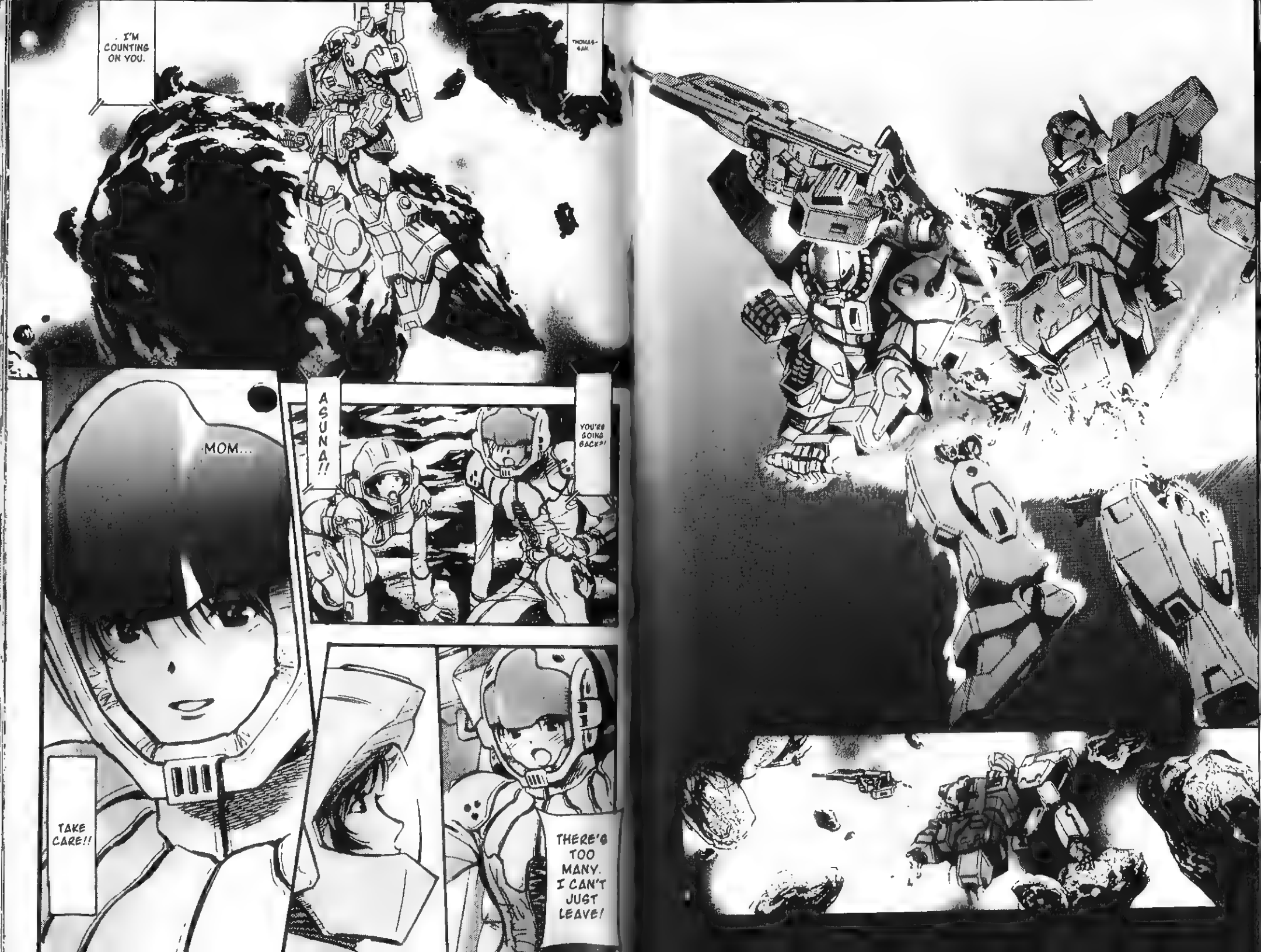
WON'T SURROUND US THAT EASY...!!
JEEZ!!
NO ELEGANCE, JUST NUMBERS!!
THEY NOTICED!
INCOMING!!
WE FIGURED AS MUCH...
BUT THIS MANY OF 'EM...
...IS HARDER THAN I THOUGHT...
DODGING WHILE WATCHING THE G'S...
QUICK...!!
FRANCIS!!


FRANCIS!!
EASY!!
GO ON AHEAD, DAMMIT!!
I'LL HAVE FUN HERE!
?!

ASUNA!
SEIZURE OF ASUNA ELMARIT SEEMS TO HAVE FAILED.
M.S. UNIT ENGAGED IN COMBAT.
WELL FINE...
I THOUGHT AS MUCH...
BELGRADE TO THE FORE!!
FIRE AT WILL!
YOU'RE HELPING CRIMINALS, TOO?!
IT'S TRUE. YOU DIDN'T JUST RUN...
...WIPING OUT MARIE'S ENTIRE GROUP.
MY GOAL FROM THE START WAS...

NO WAY! MY SAB--
NOT LETTING YA GO AFTER THAT SLAP IN THE FACE!!
HEY YOU!!
AND ARMED TOO!!
THE ONE FROM BEFORE?!
CAN I DO IT?!
MINIMAL MOVEMENT...


. I'M COUNTING ON YOU.
THOMAS-SAN
MOM...
ASUNA!!
YOU'RE GOING BACK?!
TAKE CARE!!
THERE'S TOO MANY. I CAN'T JUST LEAVE!

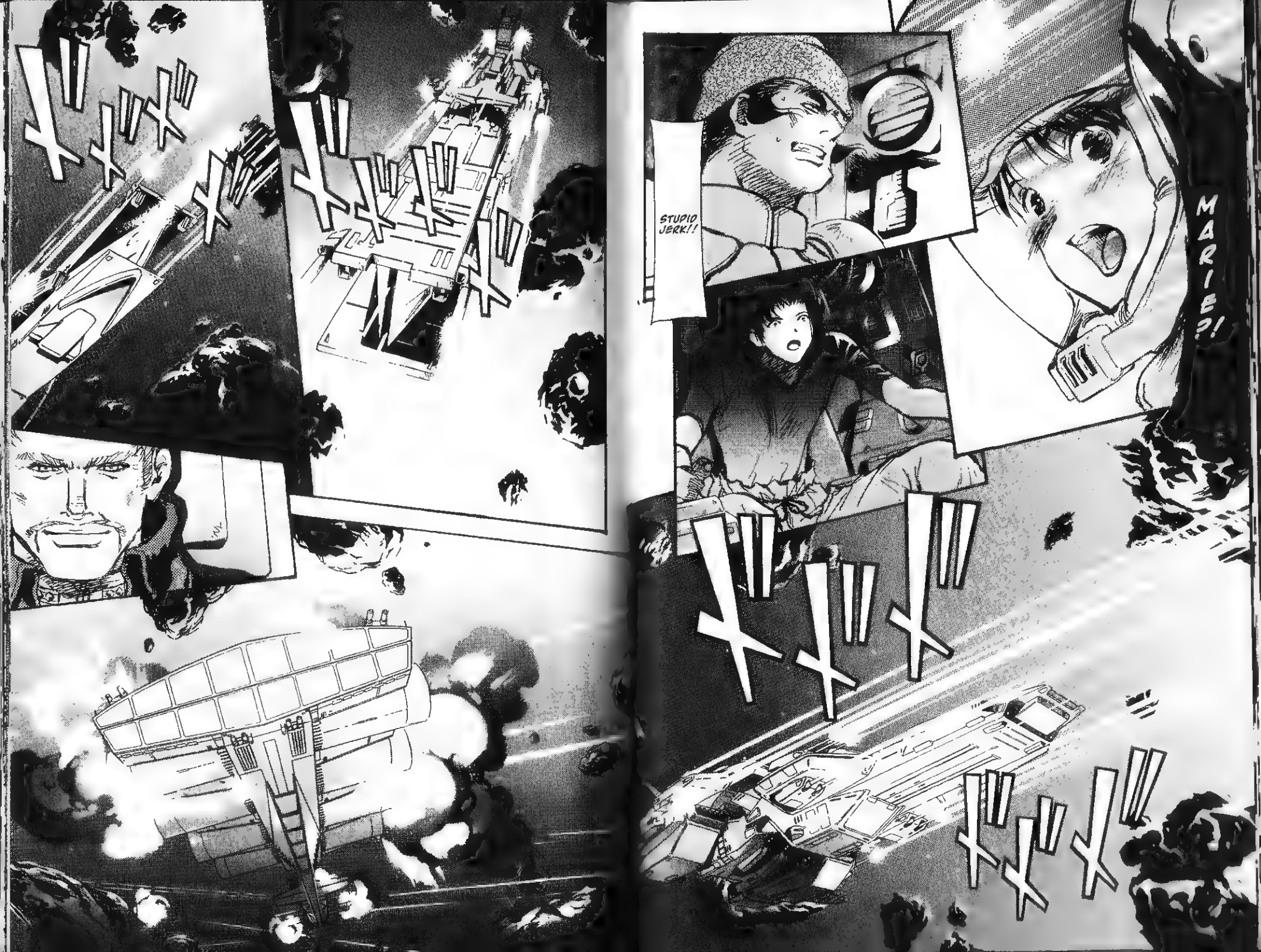
AMBAC
CAUTION
DAMMIT!!
THEY'RE HERE, TOO?!
WON'T MAKE IT!!
SORRY, IT'S A LITTLE TIGHT.
THAT GIRL'S...
.....

DAMN!
CAUGHT BETWEEN A SHIP AND AN M.S. PLATOON.
!!
WHEW.
RIGHT PLACE AT THE...
SAVED, THANKS TO YOU.

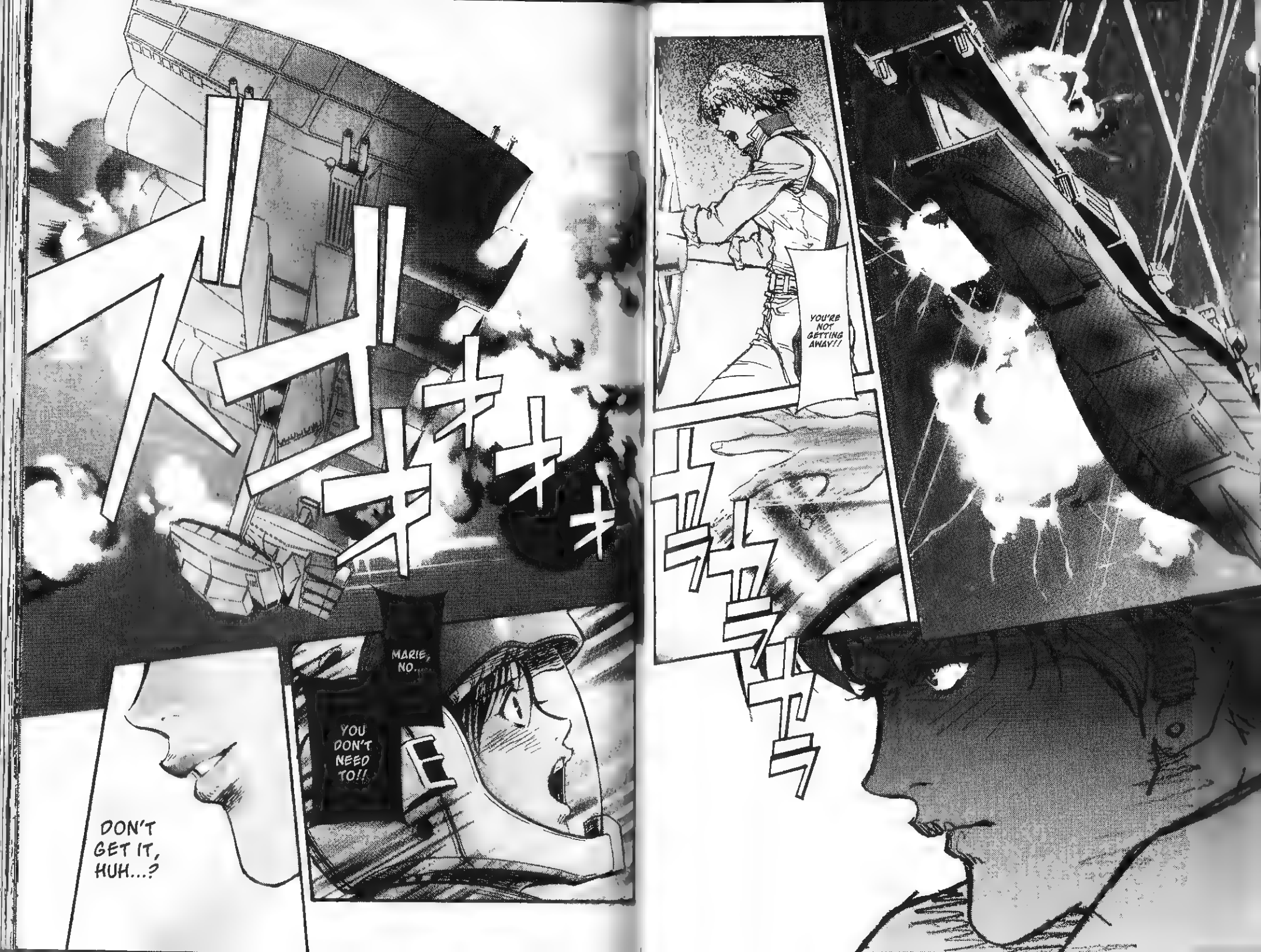
THEY CAN'T HOLD OUT FOR LONG.
MARIE!!
THOMAS UNIT BEACON CONFIRMED.
BUT THEY'RE PINNED DOWN BY THAT M.S. PLATOON.
SO WE'RE BEING INVITED. INTERESTING!
MIGHT AS WELL ACCEPT!
LET'S GO!!
!!
SHIT! GETTING NICKEL-AND-DIMED.

SORRY I'M LATE
BORROWED THIS ON THE MOON, SO IT TOOK A WHILE...
ASUNA!
FORMATION'S BROKEN.
AKIRA!!
REAL LATE.
THE HELL ?!

SHIPS ARE AIMING THERE FROM THREE DIRECTIONS!
YOU'RE A DECOY...
BUT DON'T WORRY. OUR OP'S ALREADY SUCCEEDED!
...TO LURE US INTO OPTIMAL POSITION.
THE REST ...
...FIGHT!!
...IS MY...
R-RIGHT.
...WHILE WE CAN!!
GONNA BUST OUT...


STUDIO JERK!!
MARIE?!

TARGET: SALAMIS OFF THE PORT BOW!!
Marie?!
MAKE IT COUNT!!


YOU'RE NOT GETTING AWAY!!
MARIE, NO...
YOU DON'T NEED TO!!
DON'T GET IT, HUH...?

MARIE!!!
...THIS SHIP NOT SINKING!!
NO ONE'S GONNA ACCEPT...

BATTLE FILE

Time Progression

GM Quel

Asuna (Dummy) Explodes

Asuna, the deserter, was supposed to be exchanged for her mother, Haruka, but they fooled the Titans with a dummy in a Normal Suit.

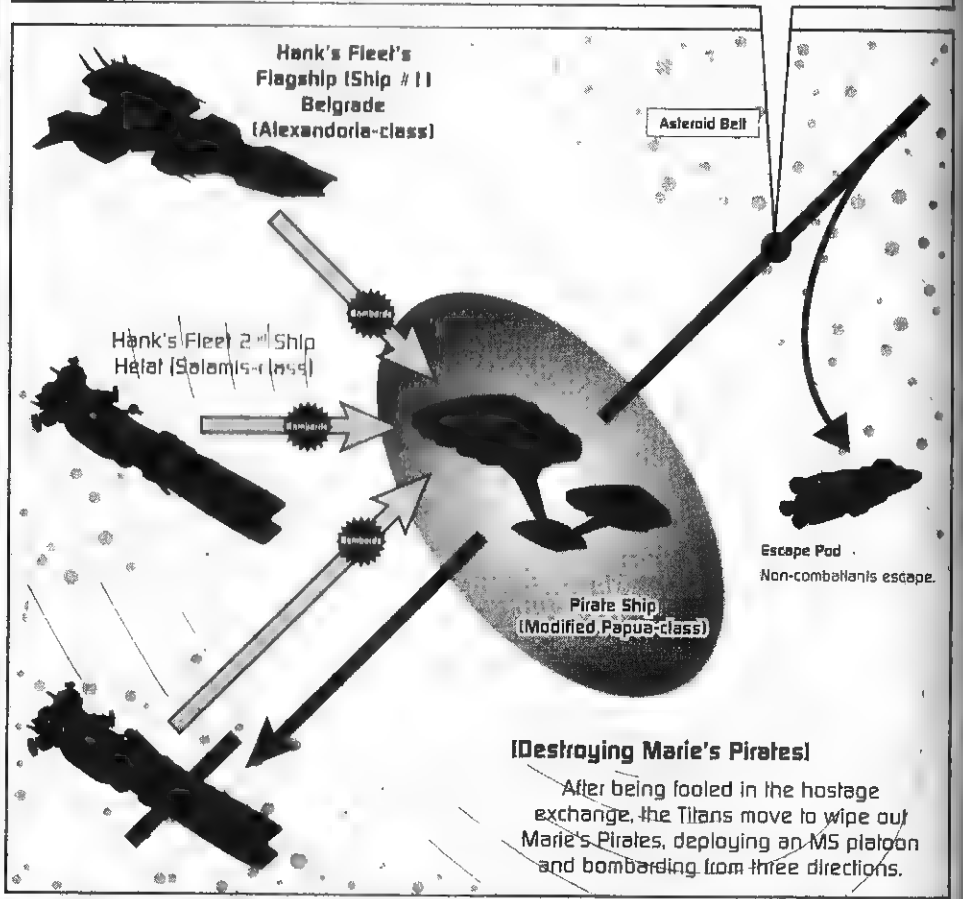
[Hostage Exchange]

Haruka

Hizack (Thomas)

Asuna, who hides behind the Hizack's seat while Thomas is outside for the hostage exchange, protects Thomas and Haruka. Thomas gets Haruka into a Rick Dom hidden in a dummy rock and withdraws from the combat area.

Dummy Rock Francis' Rick Dom and Marie's Zaku's break cover and scatter, providing cover for Haruka's escape



[Destroying Marie's Pirates]

After being fooled in the hostage exchange, the Titans move to wipe out Marie's Pirates, deploying an MS platoon and bombarding from three directions.

215 Escape

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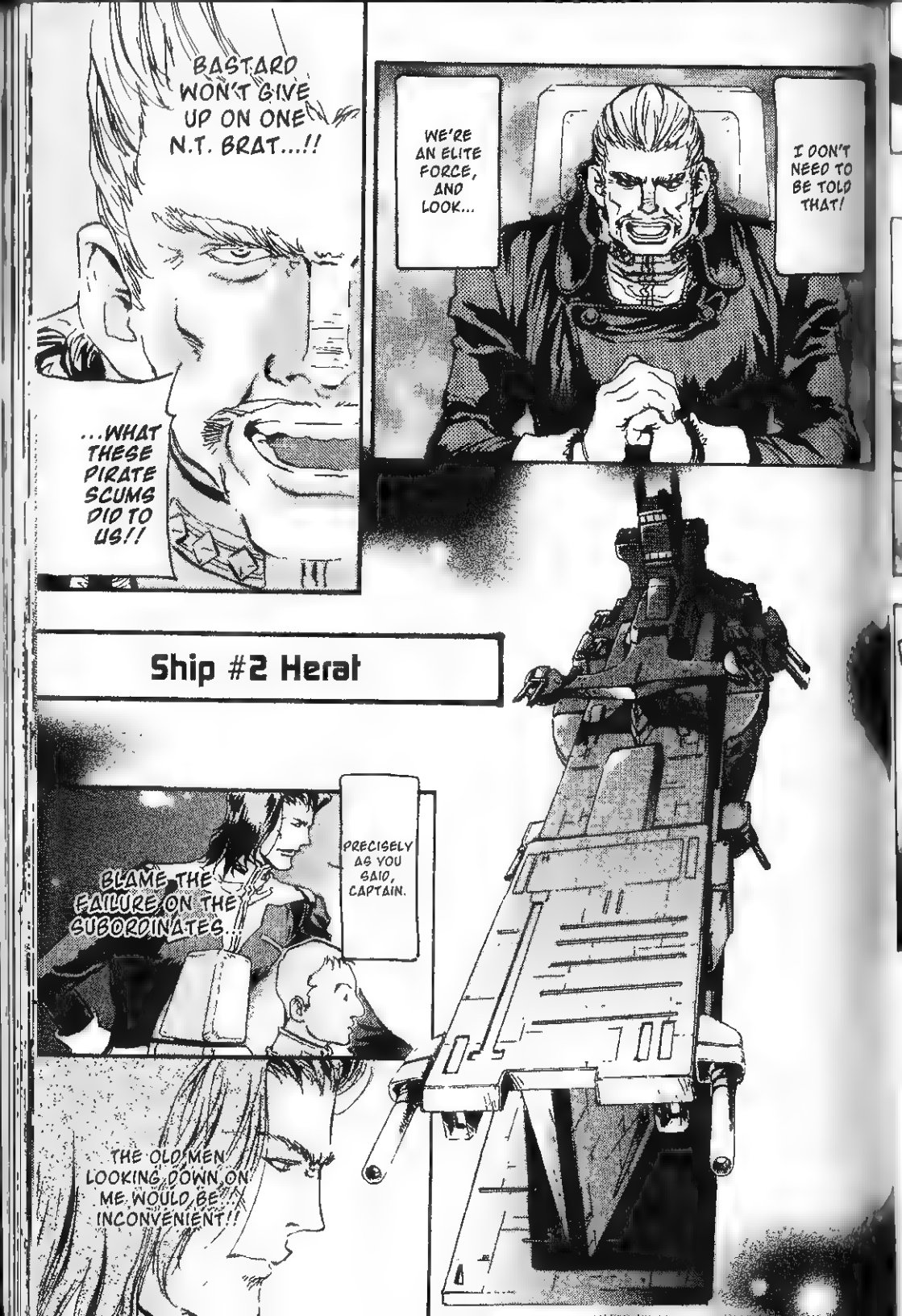
AKIRA...

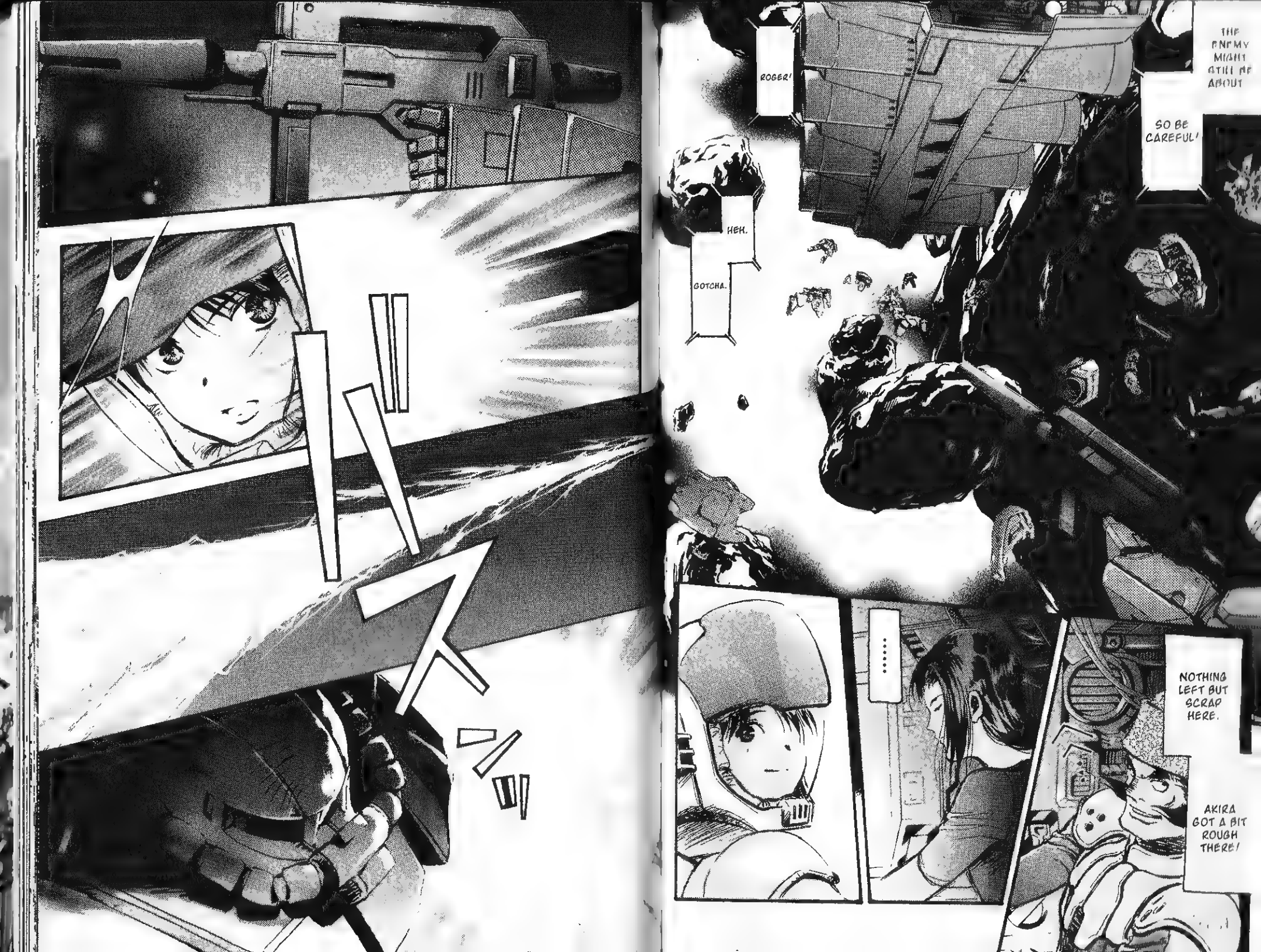
uuuuuuuuuu!!
u...!!

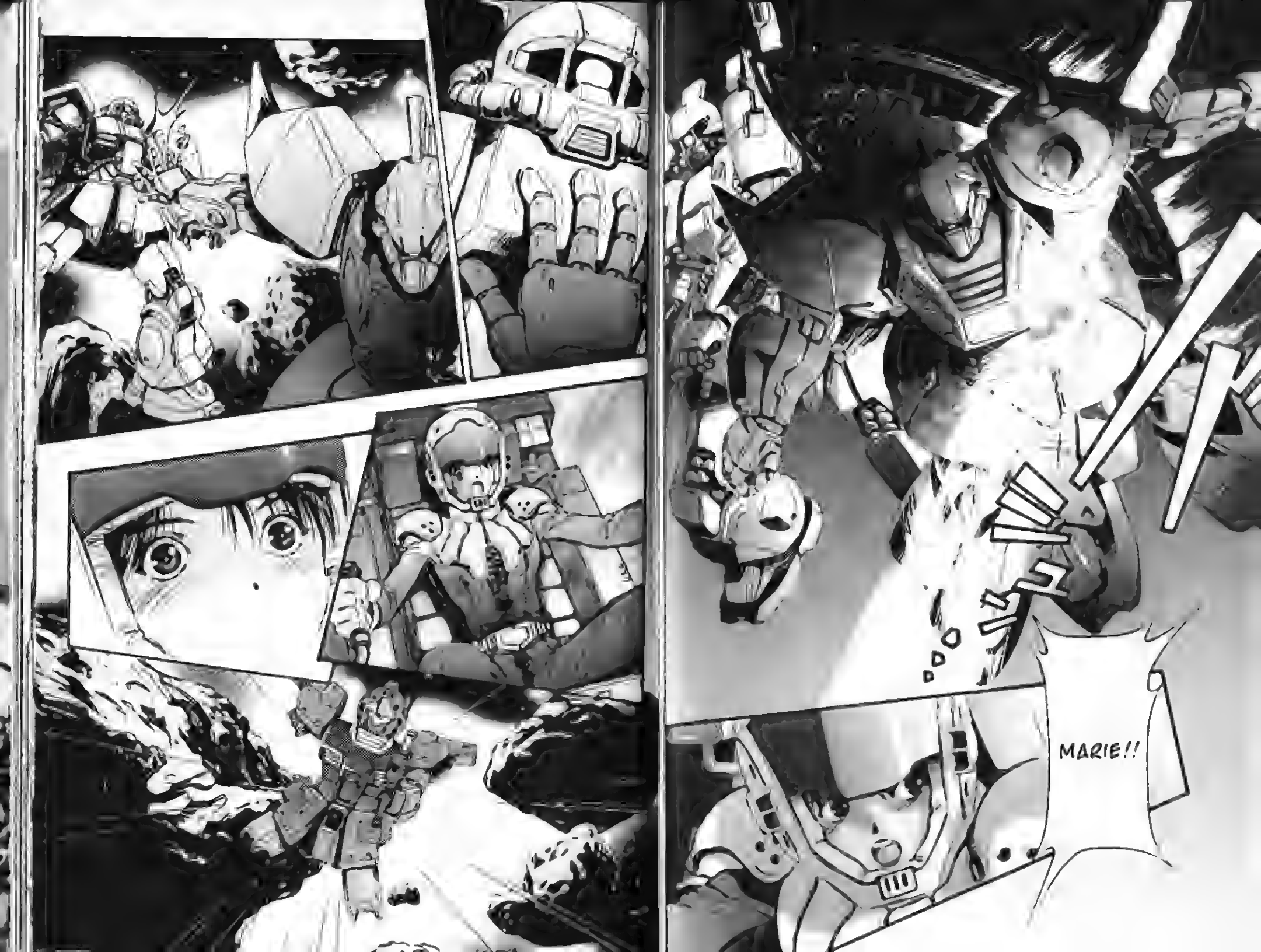

BASTARD WON'T GIVE UP ON ONE N.T. BRAT....!!
...WHAT THESE PIRATE SCUMS DID TO US!!
WE'RE AN ELITE FORCE, AND LOOK...
I DON'T NEED TO BE TOLD THAT!
Ship #2 Herat
BLAME THE FAILURE ON THE SUBORDINATES...
PRECISELY AS YOU SAID, CAPTAIN.
THE OLD MEN LOOKING DOWN ON ME WOULD BE INCONVENIENT!!

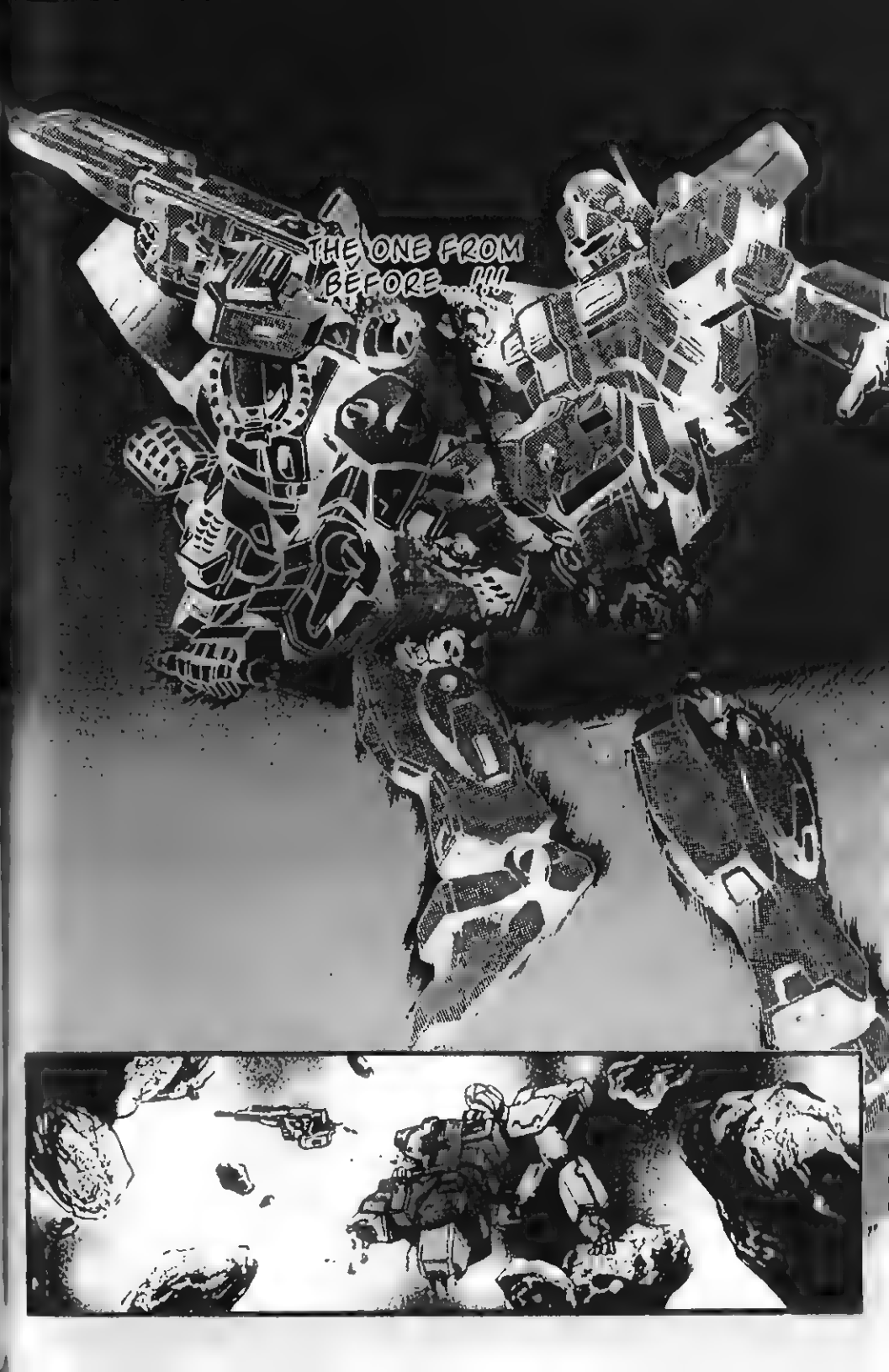
Ship #1 Belgrade
MARIE'S SHIP, SHIP NUMBER THREE-- BOTH SINKING!!
CAN'T CONFIRM NEARBY M.S. PLATOON!
CAPTAIN HANK!
KEEP SEARCHING
PATHETIC!!
THERE MUST STILL BE MINNOWS LEFT.
THAT MARIE ISN'T ONE TO THROW EVEN ONE SHIP AWAY!
THE HOSTAGE EXCHANGE FELL THROUGH
BUT DIDN'T BE CARELESS

WHAT THE HELL ARE YOU STANDING AROUND FOR?!
?!

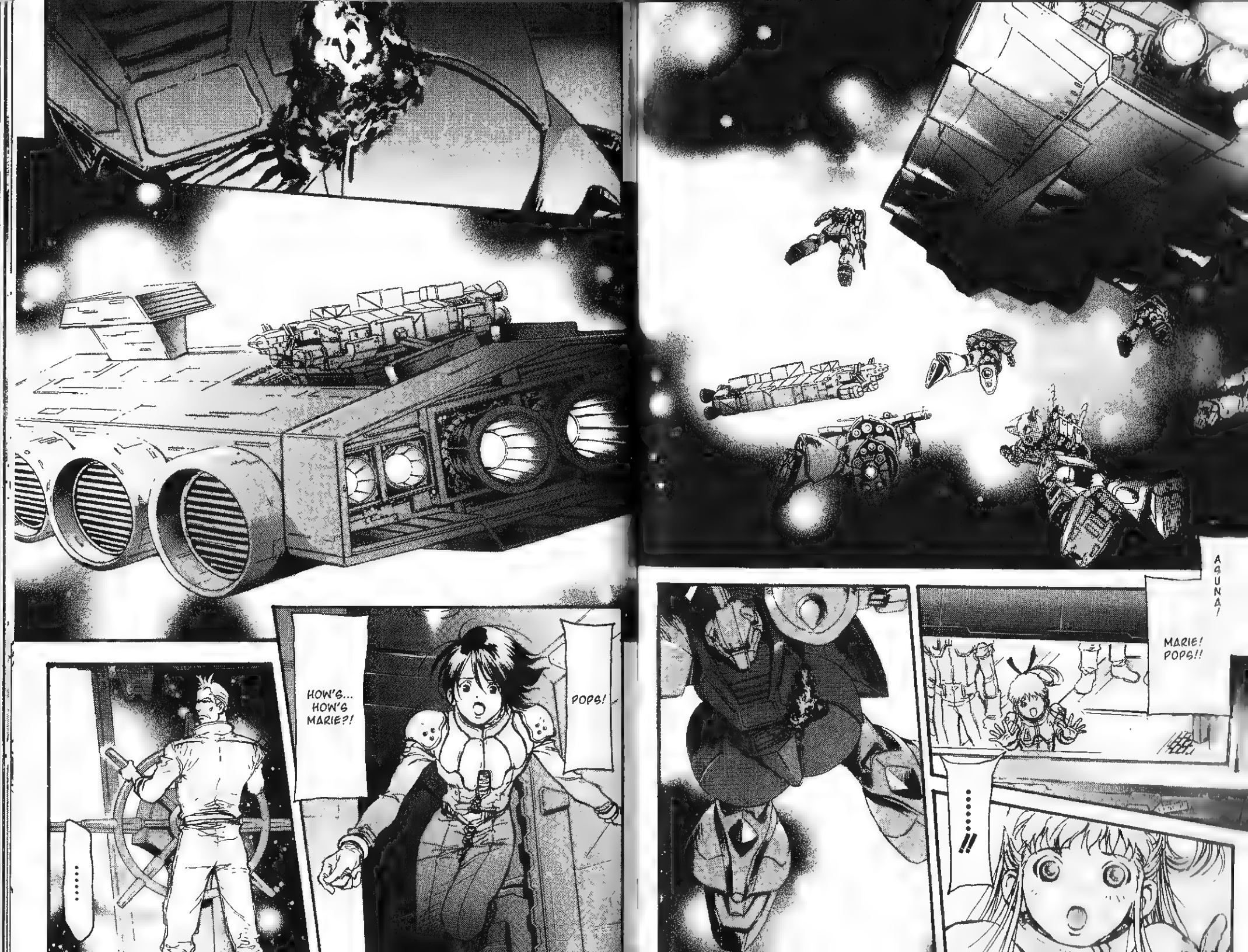
WHY DO YOU THINK I SUNK THE PAZOCK?!
YOU'LL GET SPOTTED, LOAFING AROUND LIKE THAT!!
TO DECEIVE THE ENEMY, DECEIVE YOUR ALLIES.
HO HO HO HO HO.
MODIFYING THE PAZOCK TO SEPARATE ON THE MOON CAME IN HANDY.
SO...
...EVERYONE TO THE RENDEZVOUS!
~MARIE--!!


ROGER!
THE ENEMY MIGHT STILL BE ABOUT
SO BE CAREFUL!
HEH.
GOTCHA.
.....
NOTHING LEFT BUT SCRAP HERE.
AKIRA GOT A BIT ROUGH THERE!


MARIE!!


THE ONE FROM BEFORE...!!!

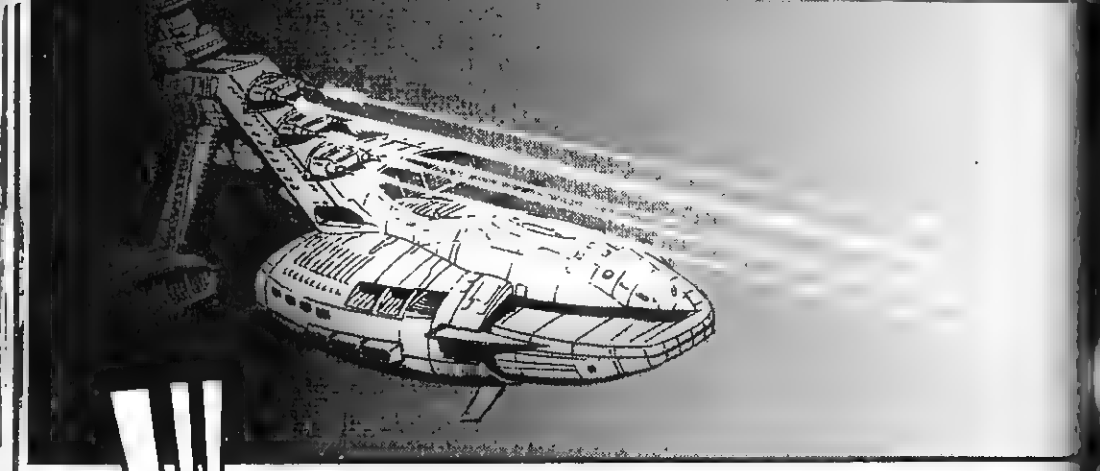
MARIE...

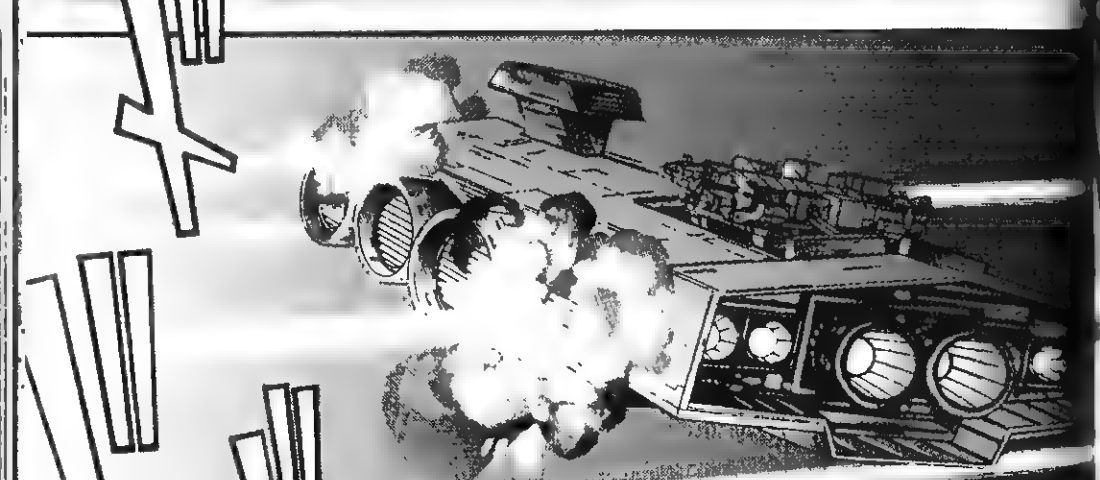

AGUNA!
MARIE! POPS!!
.....!!
POPS!
HOW'S... HOW'S MARIE?!
.....

OH NO!
MARIE !!
STOP IT!!
MARIE WOULDN'T WANT YOU TO SEE HER LIKE THIS.
DIDN'T YOU NOTICE?
THE BEAM'S HEAT FUSED THE COCKPIT INTERIOR TO HALF OF MARIE'S BODY.
...OUT OF THE COCKPIT WITH THIS SHIP'S EQUIPMENT...
WE CAN'T GET MARIE...

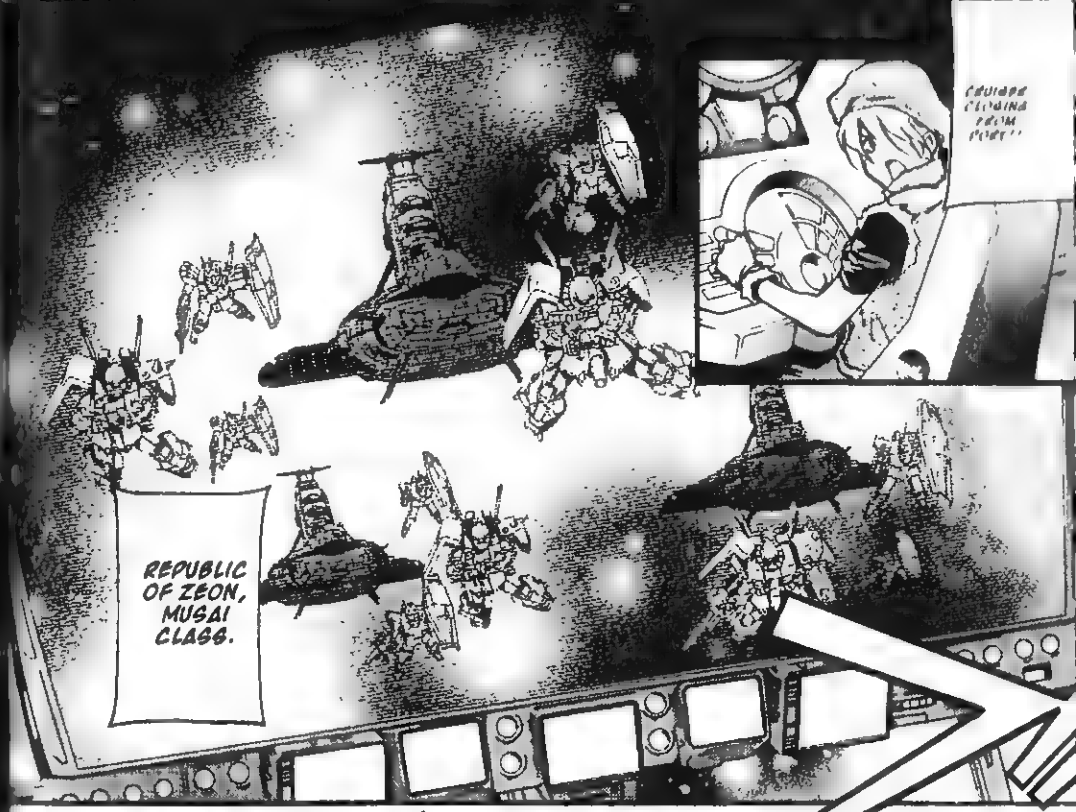
...BEEN DOING UNTIL NOW?!
...HAVE I...
WHAT...
THE ONLY COURAGE YOU LACK IS TO DIRTY YOUR HANDS TO LIVE!!

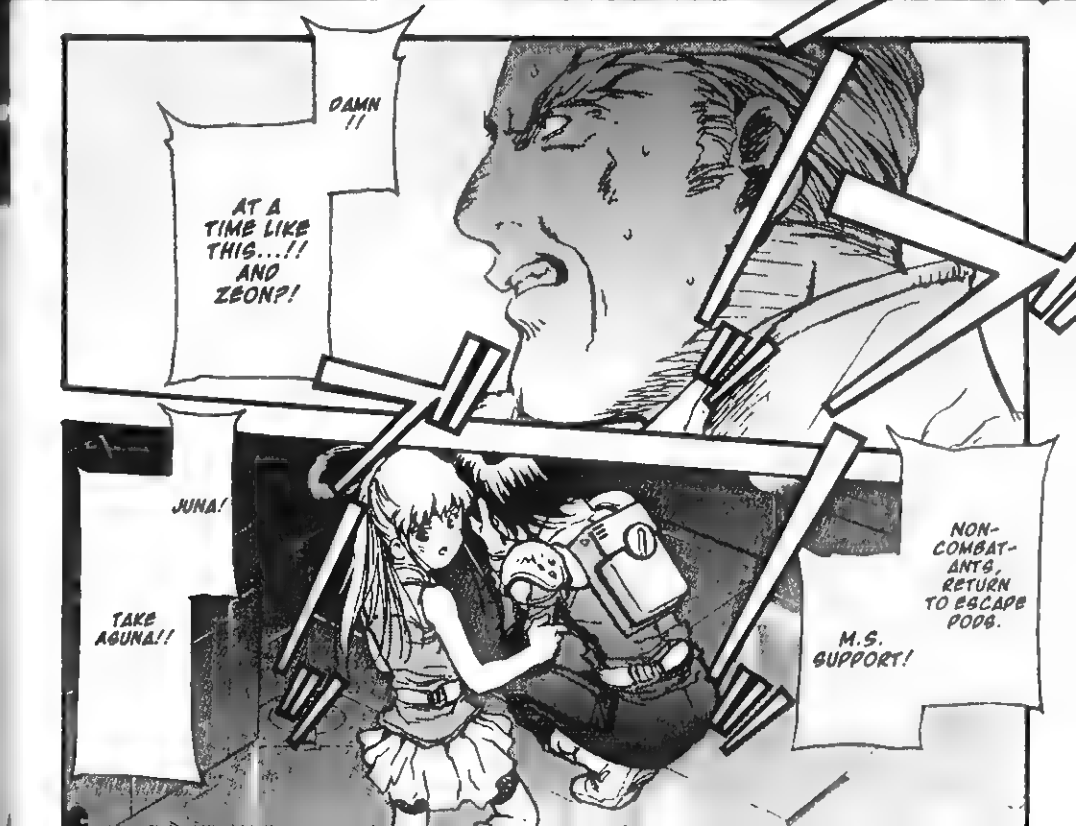
HER HAIR ALWAYS HIDES THE TORN-UP TOP OF HER EAR...
BUT THE EARRING ON HER EARLOBE ALWAYS GLITTERS.
THAT'S HOW SHE IS...
THAT'S HOW SHE FIGHTS!

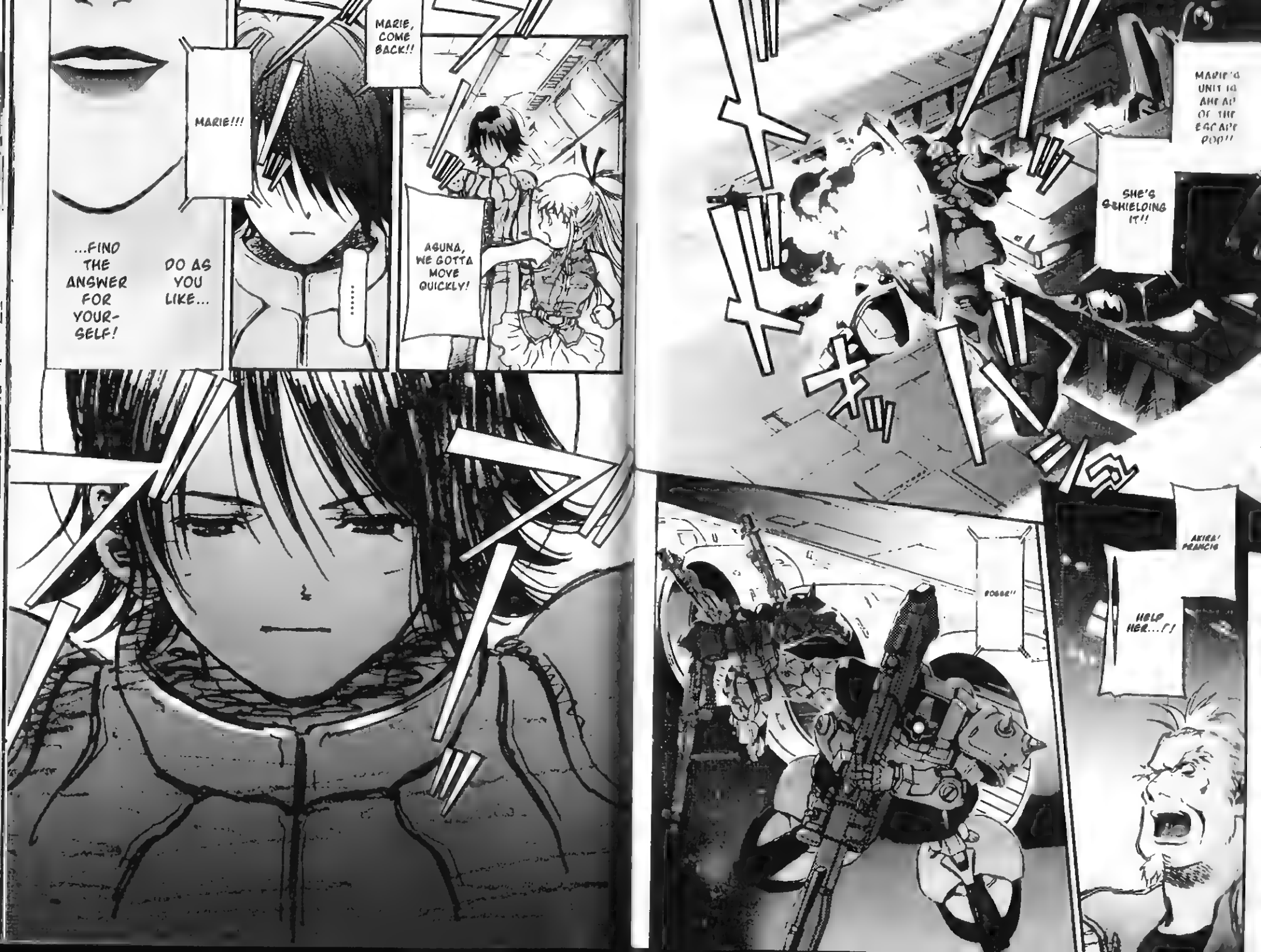


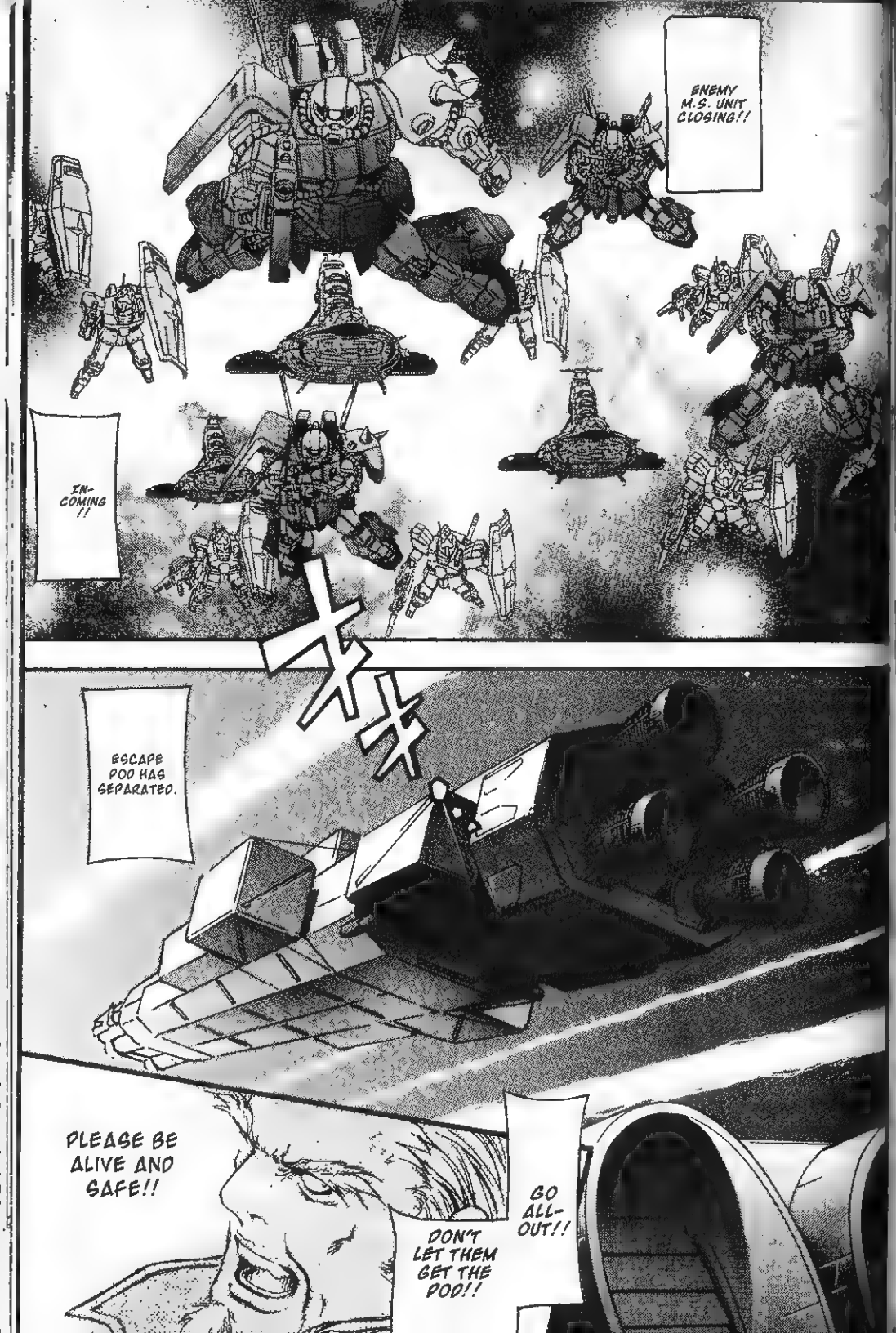


MARIE'S GELGOOG IS LAUNCHING!!
HEY!


REPUBLIC OF ZEON, MUSAI CLAGG.


DAMN !!
AT A TIME LIKE THIS...!! AND ZEON?!
JUNA!
TAKE AGUNA!!
M.S. SUPPORT!
NON-COMBAT-ANTS, RETURN TO ESCAPE PODS.


MARIE, COME BACK!!
MARIE!!!
AGUNA, WE GOTTA MOVE QUICKLY!
.....
DO AS YOU LIKE...
...FIND THE ANSWER FOR YOUR-SELF!
MARIE'S UNIT IS AHEAD OF THE ESCAPE POD!!
SHE'S SHIELDING IT!!
BOOOM!!
AKIRA! FRANCIS
HELP HER...!!

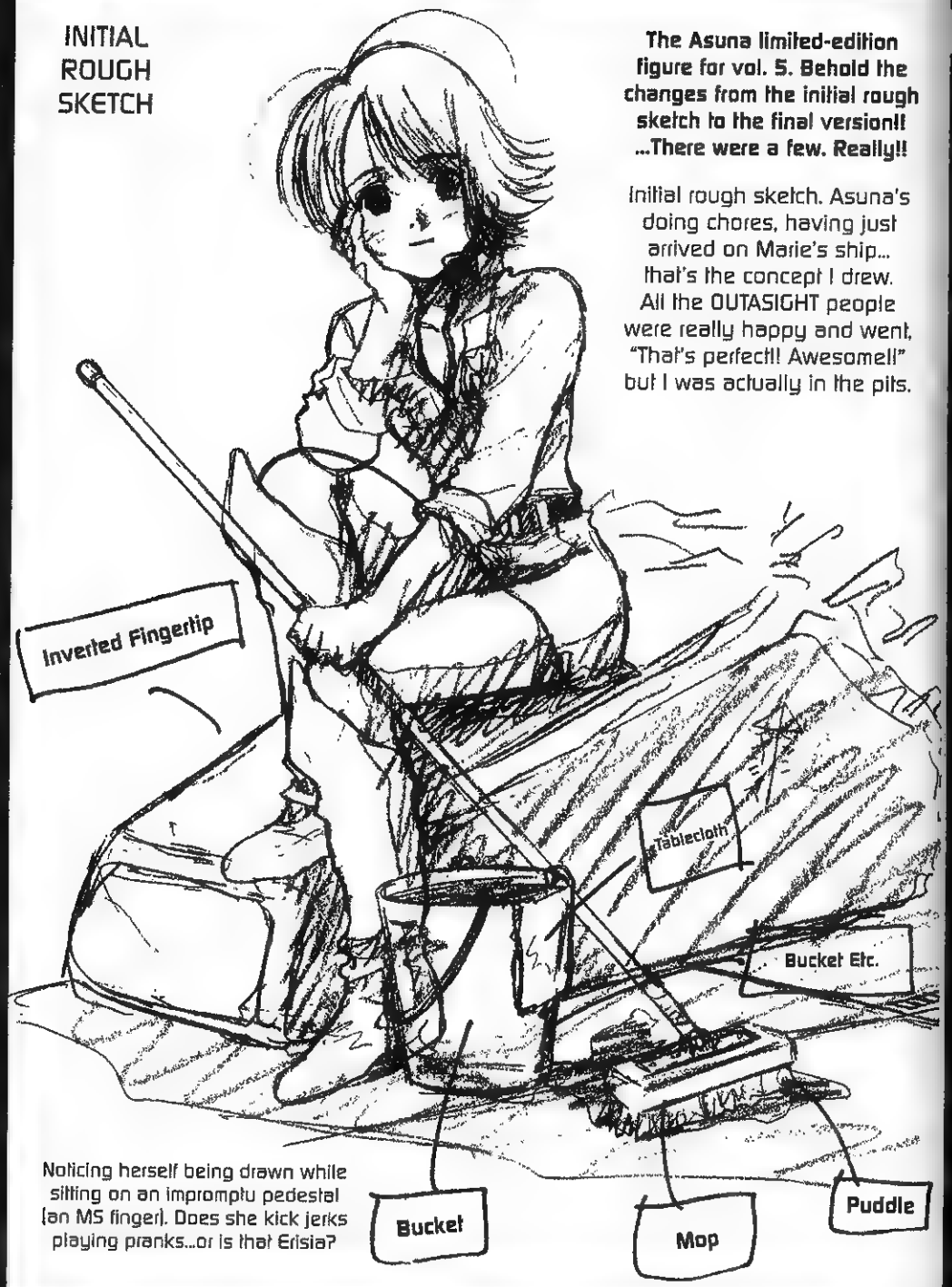

ENEMY M.S. UNIT CLOSING!!
IN-COMING !!
ESCAPE POD HAS SEPARATED.
PLEASE BE ALIVE AND SAFE!!
DON'T LET THEM GET THE POD!!
GO ALL-OUT!!

I'LL... FIGHT!!
PROTECT HER FOR ME!
JUNA
GO ON AHEAD.

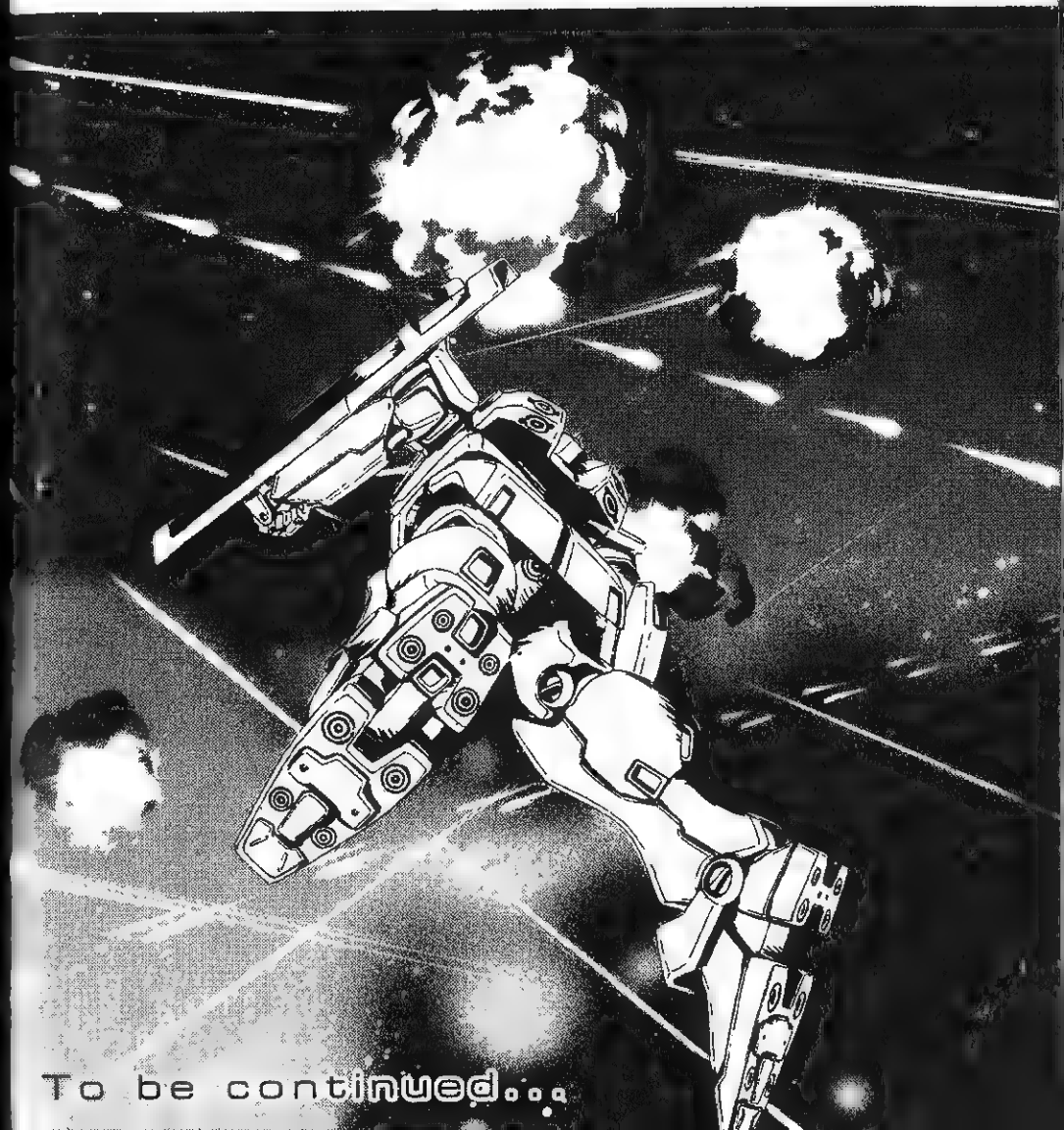
INITIAL ROUGH SKETCH

The Asuna limited-edition figure for vol. 5. Behold the changes from the initial rough sketch to the final version!! ...There were a few. Really!!

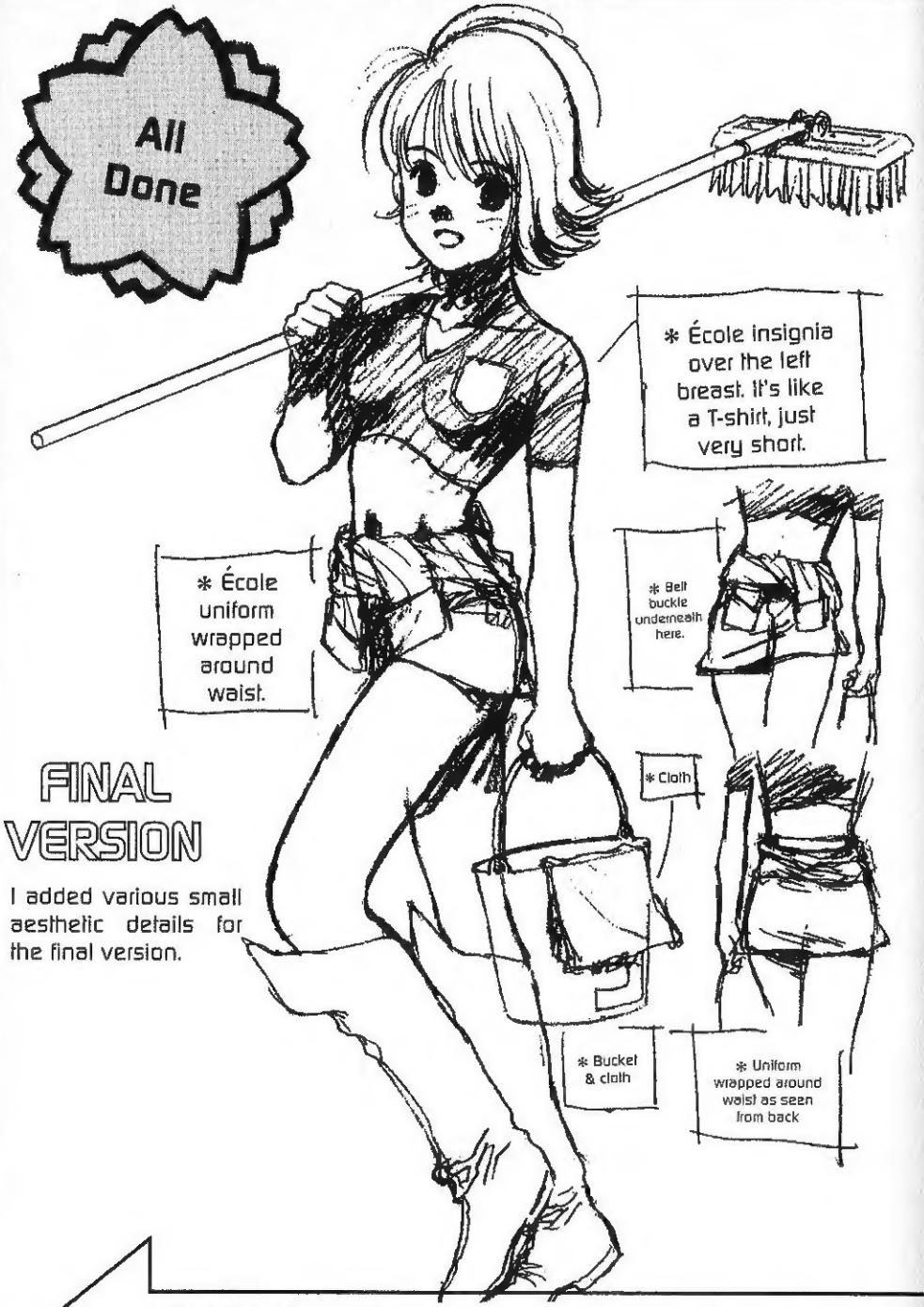
Initial rough sketch. Asuna's doing chores, having just arrived on Marie's ship... that's the concept I drew. All the OUTASIGHT people were really happy and went, "That's perfect!! Awesome!!" but I was actually in the pits.



Noticing herself being drawn while sitting on an impromptu pedestal (an MS finger). Does she kick jerks playing pranks...or is that Erisia?



All Done

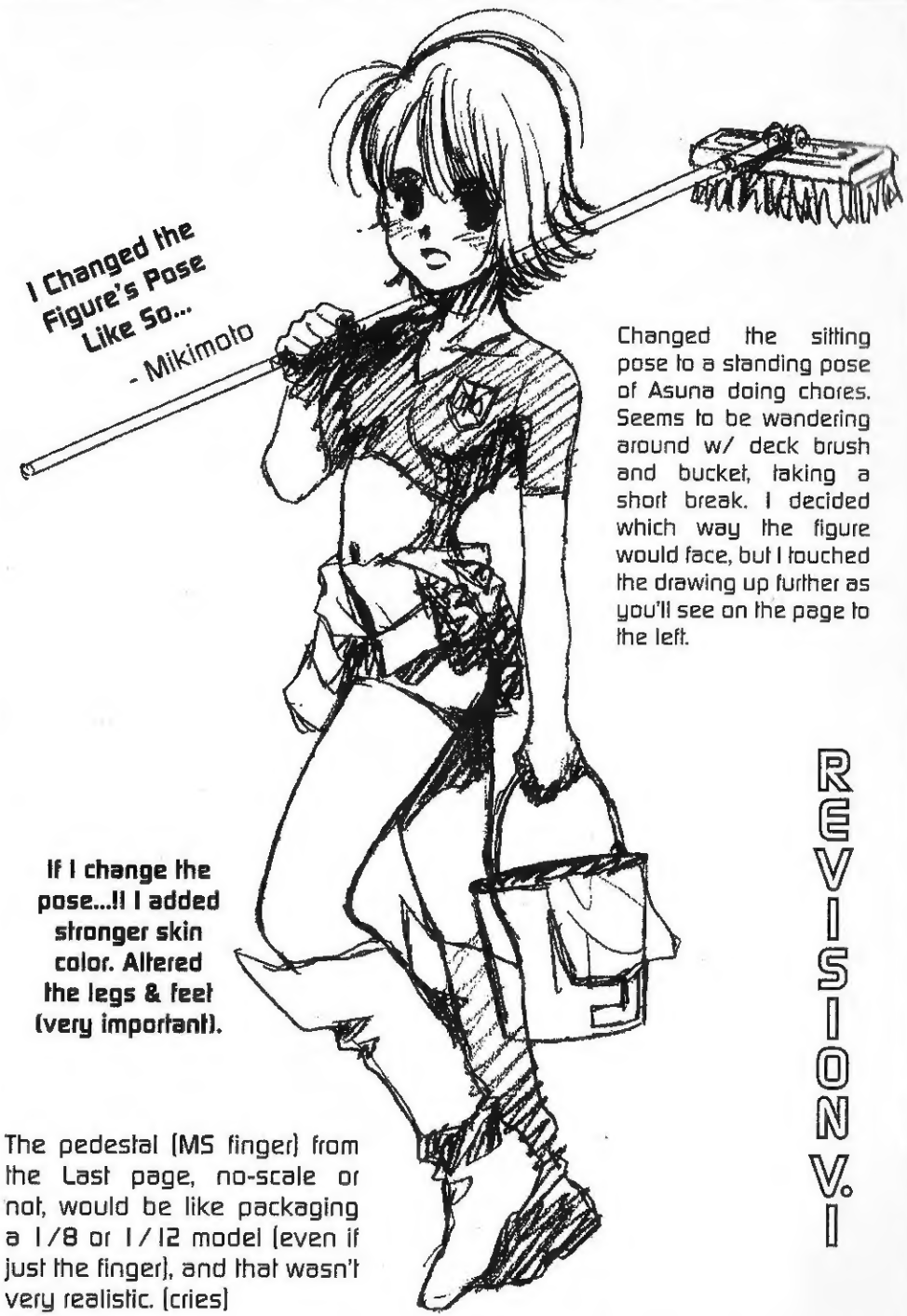

* École insignia over the left breast. It's like a T-shirt, just very short.
* École uniform wrapped around waist.
* Belt buckle underneath here.
* Cloth
* Bucket & cloth
* Uniform wrapped around waist as seen from back

FINAL VERSION

I added various small aesthetic details for the final version.

COMING SOON! The Next Project is of Course...

I Changed the Figure's Pose Like So...
- Mikimoto



Changed the sitting pose to a standing pose of Asuna doing chores. Seems to be wandering around w/ deck brush and bucket, taking a short break. I decided which way the figure would face, but I touched the drawing up further as you'll see on the page to the left.

If I change the pose...!! I added stronger skin color. Altered the legs & feet (very important).

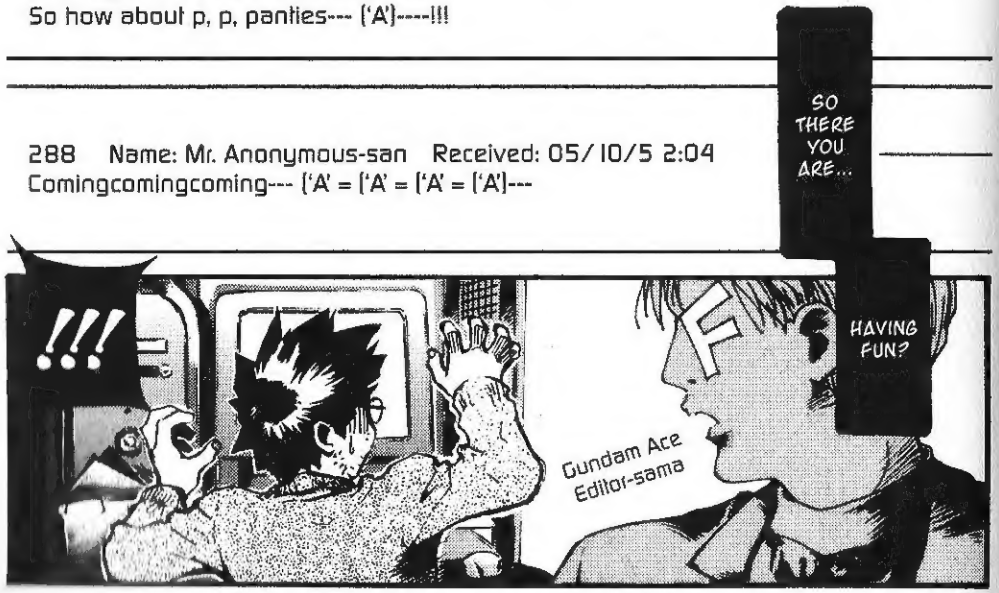
The pedestal (MS finger) from the Last page, no-scale or not, would be like packaging a 1/8 or 1/12 model (even if just the finger), and that wasn't very realistic. (cries)

REVISION V.I

286 Name: Mr. Anonymous-san Received: 05/10/5 0:15
Th, these are---?????
B, b, b, bare legs---!!!!!

287 Name: Mr. Anonymous-san Received: 05/10/5 1:53
Bare leg shots in "Gundam Ace"---!!!!!
So how about p, p, panties--- ('A')----!!!

288 Name: Mr. Anonymous-san Received: 05/10/5 2:04
Comingcomingcoming--- ('A' = ('A' = ('A' = ('A')---



289 Name: Mr. Anonymous-san Received: 05/10/5 3:23

281 Name: Mr. Anonymous-san Received: 05/10/4 18:41
It's coming-------[*A*] ---------!!!!!
The École Asuna Figure!!!

282 Name: Mr. Anonymous-san Received: 05/10/4 18:52

IT'S COMING!!

283 Name: Mr. Anonymous-San Received: 05/10/4 19:25
It's like it's a different person---
Does she have lips like these---? Does she???

284 Name: Mr. Anonymous-San Received: 05/10/4 20:08
Did M---moto mess this up---?
Or [Name] or [Name] Maybe--- ('-')

285 Name: Mr. Anonymous-San Received: 05/10/4 22:18
These Arms are kinda racy!!!!!
who a Daddy---!!!

And that skirt!!!!!

People of École

Mr. Kenichi Nakahara

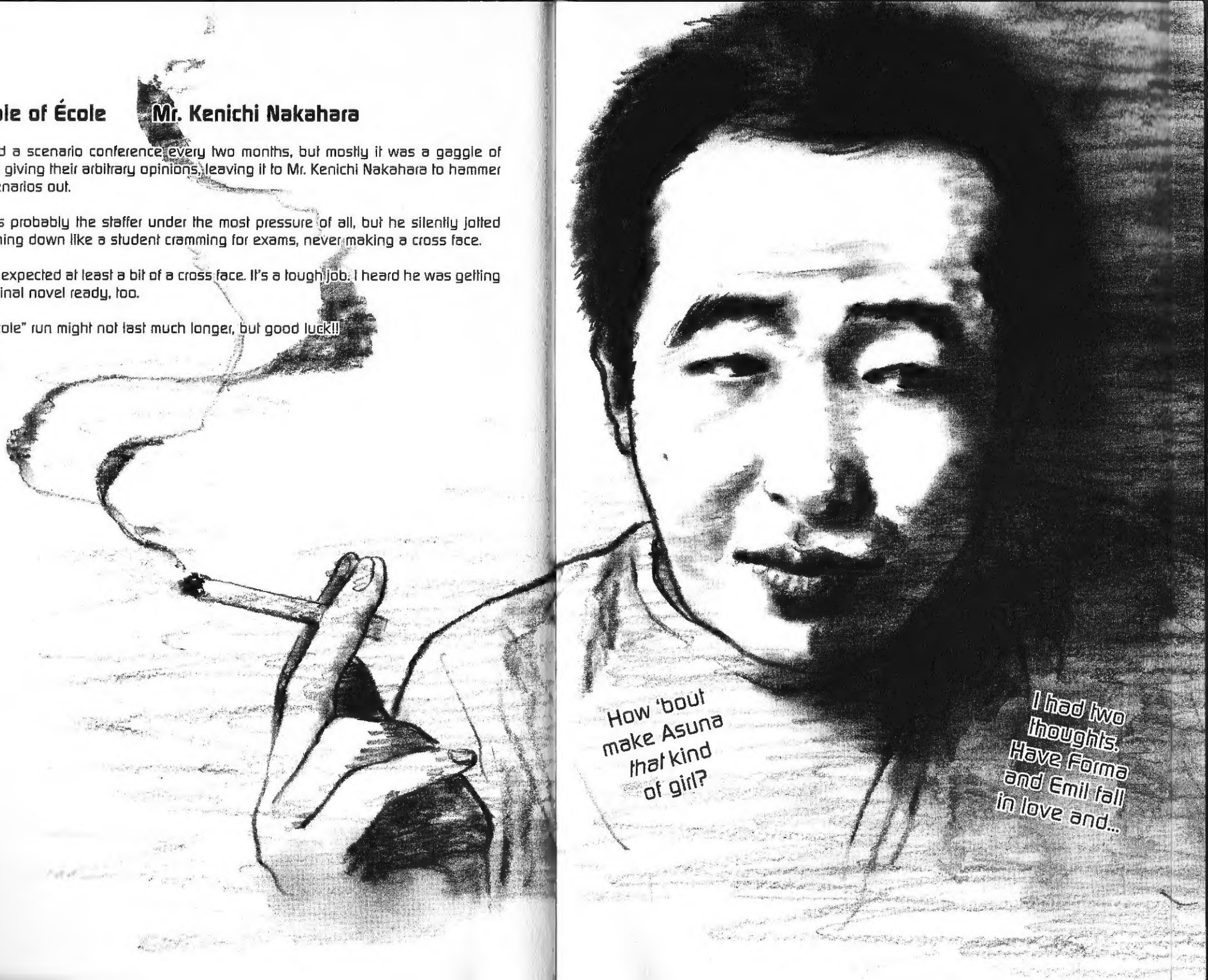
We had a scenario conference every two months, but mostly it was a gaggle of people giving their arbitrary opinions, leaving it to Mr. Kenichi Nakahara to hammer the scenarios out.

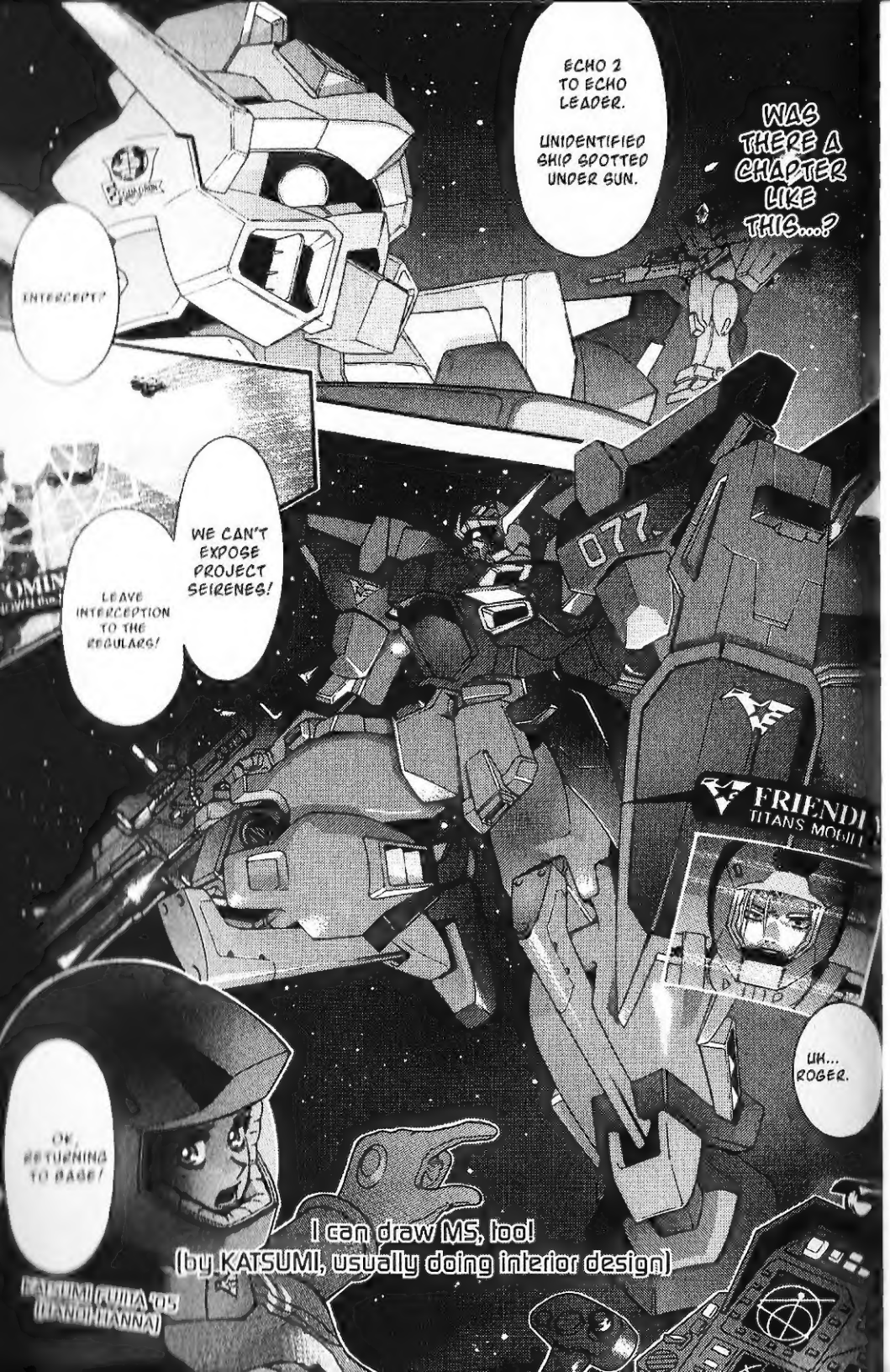
He was probably the staffer under the most pressure of all, but he silently jotted everything down like a student cramming for exams, never making a cross face.

I really expected at least a bit of a cross face. It's a tough job. I heard he was getting an original novel ready, too.

Our "École" run might not last much longer, but good luck!!

It's fun.





3-panel Assistant Theatre

By: Akari Matsuhara — Played By: Asuna

Played by: Thomas

...Yep, I did. m(_ _)m

As you can see, I'm a bit mecha-clueless. Learned new things every day...

But, knowing what I know now, I can say today that Gundam certainly is lots of fun.

I really like how Asuna's growing and getting stronger through her École trials. (I have to grow more, too...)